SLAYER

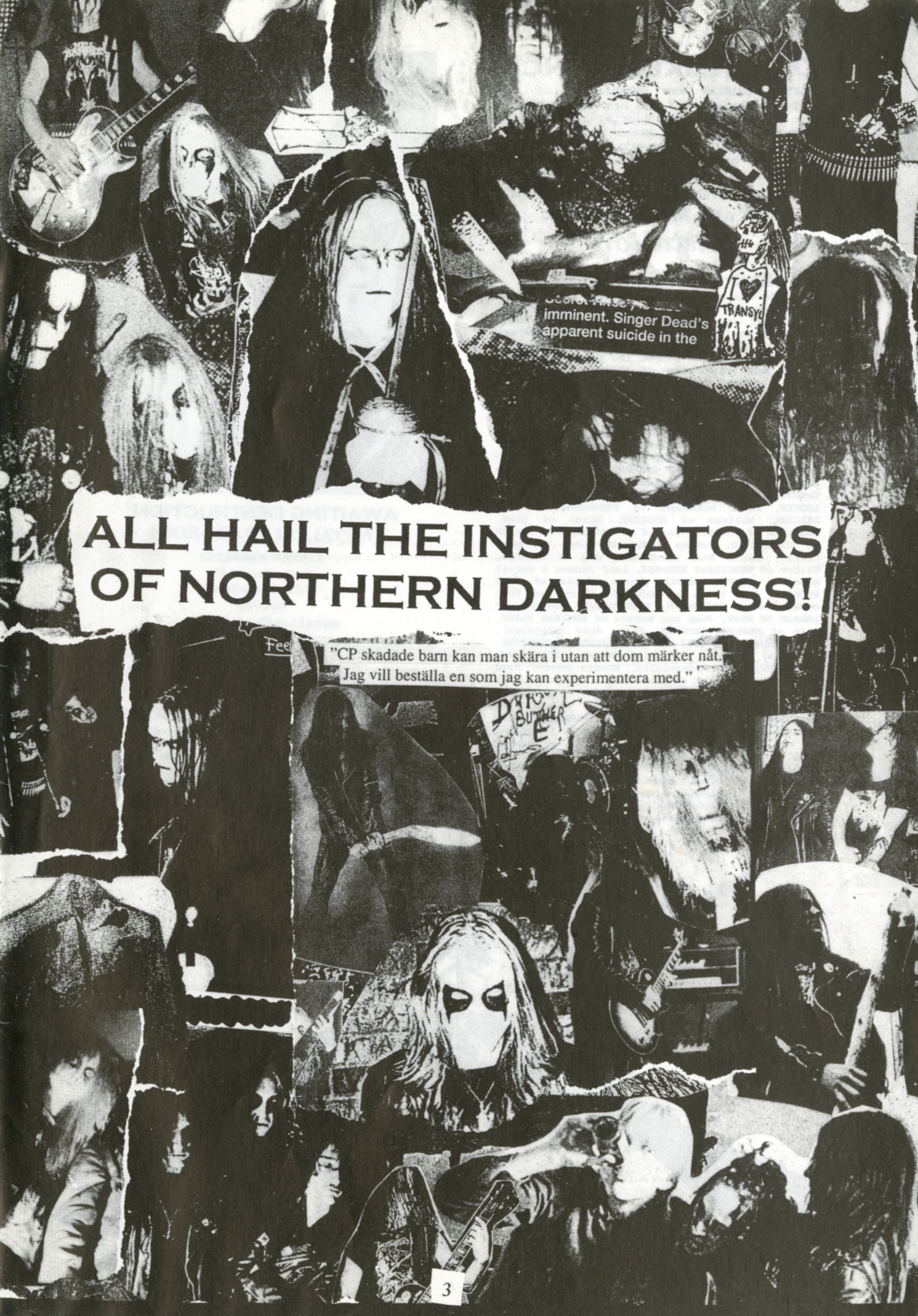
VOL. 16

DEATHLIKE SILENCE

A lot of battles have been fought before I could finally unleash this 16th chapter in the SLAYER saga! 2001 has been a pretty confusing year for me. To give you a quick run down of things that happened here lately I can say I ended my partnership with HEAD NOT FOUND/VOICES OF WONDER so the distribution of this magazine through their channels is gone. I'm not involved in HEAD NOT FOUND anymore so please don't send any demos or anything concerning that! I had to start all over again, back to scratch! Then there was some talk about doing a split issue with a big American 'zine but I backed out of that - Why? I had to change the layout which really is impossible for me. SLAYER needs to have the SLAYER look. Then there was some talk about a US label funding SLAYER but nothing come out of that for now either, perhaps later. So now I'm more back to the roots than I ever been before. I sacrificed everything to get this damn thing unleashed and I'm happy I went this path. I'm now in control of everything (I probably know every SLAYER reader face to face when I think of it), so again many of you will have problems finding this thing. Oh well – the story of SLAYER. 'Everyone' heard about it, hardly anyone has read it! HAHA! It is a bit like the "Armed And Dangerous" *mini* LP of RAZOR, most Metal heads knows about the existence of this pearl but very few posses this item. Oh well, I need to thank the distributors who still supports SLAYER, like STATIC AGE, MERCILESS and IRON PEGASUS to mention the essential ones – you bring life to SLAYER. Also as you can see I chosen a new printer this time, I was very disappointed in how SLAYER 15 turned out with all the stupid errors done by the printer. I'm not even going there! So this time a new printer is being used and hopefully it will be ok! I look 'bright' upon the future of SLAYER, at least a few more issues. (Not economical wise but money is not an essence!) And I need to make it to the 20 years anniversary (2005). The main problem is to find advertisers for SLAYER, and then the other hard part is to get them to pay. It is amazing that so many 'big' labels have problems coming up with a lousy 100 bucks or something. If you promise something you have to follow it up, no time for bullshitters – ok? (I mentioned that in the last issue also so I let it rest for now!) Also in the past I been looking for contributors but I pretty much given up using anyone on a steady basis. I accept some help here and there and I appreciate that. But I'm most comfortable doing things MY way even if it takes a bit longer. No point in putting the fate of SLAYER in other hands! Also, I know a lot of people are talking shit behind my back but that is ok, I really don't care about you either. SLAYER is made to support the Metal I love – nothing else! I could go on a rant about the shit state of the extreme music scene again but I think you know about that, and you can also read my album reviews. Also, you might wonder why SODOM is on the cover when they are not interviewed? Go figure! I love SODOM and I put whatever I want on the cover. Also the moniker "DEATHLIKE SILENCE" is to be seen as a tribute to Euronymous and also SODOM.

Metalion

artwork - rev kriss hades



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DEATHLIKE SILENCE

SLAYER MAGAZINE was established in the early months of 1985 and has supported the true embodiment of fucking Metal ever since! We believe in Metal aggression and not much else! FOREVER HAIL TO THE ETERNAL METAL OF DEATH! Front cover shows the masterful SODOM 1984! METAL EXCELLENCE!

EDITOR, WRITER, LAYOUT, ARNE ART AND METAL TYRANT:

Metalion

ETERNAL GRATITUDE TO:

Arne Babb for being the best friend I never had, Curriculum Mortis, Cronis, Willy Destroyaren, Bård Faust and Labelskum for their interviews appearing in this Edition, Rok for logo and art work, Rev. Kriss Hades for page boarders and art work, all those who bought the previous issues, Tyrant and Hellbutcher of NIFELHEIM, Ylva and Paulo of STATIC AGE, Stephen O'Malley, Rev. Kriss Hades and Rok of SADISTIK EXEKUTION, Necromancer of USURPER, Jon Nødtveidt, Vlad, Melek Taus, Schmier and Mike of DESTRUCTION, Rayshele Teige, Vomitmaster ('så jævla brutalt'), Samoth, Angel Ripper of SODOM, Morbid of HORDE OF THE ECLIPSE, Necro Sister, Sabina Classen of HOLY MOSES, Mem Von Stein of EXUMER/SUN DESCENDS, Kingy and Mike of DECEASED, Frank Støver, Mille Petrozza of KREATOR, Desekrator of HEMLOCK, Killjoy, Seth of ABORYM, Anton Reisneger of PENTAGRAM, Mia of DRACENA, Melissa of ADORIOR, Mirai of SIGH, Schytain of IMPIETY, Sasrof of DIABOLICUM, Harald of BLOODTHORN, Robban & Eva of CLOSE UP, Mary Ciullo, Snorre Ruch of THORNS, Ann of MOONFOG, Volker of MERCILESS RECORDS, Leif Jensen & Gerrit Mohr of CENTURY MEDIA, Costa Stoios of IRON PEGASUS, Dan Tobin of EARACHE, Thorns of FULL MOON, Ewo of SPINEFARM, HAMMERHEART, Sabiene of SEASON OF MIST, Jaap and Martin of NUCLEAR BLAST, Alex of WARLORD RECORDS, Håkon Grav (pictures), Frode Øien of VOICES OF WONDER/SCREAM MAGAZINE, Herve of OSMOSE, TUBA DISTRIBUTION, PLAYGROUND DISTRIBUTION, Gro Narvestad, Marcus Adler, Eske of W.O.A., all the ones who had a drink with me or on me, everyone who gave a fuck, headbangers who dedicated their lives to Metal, the worshippers of the black gold, Wacken Metal warriors. Also a very fucking special thank you to the SLAYER A GO-GO girl Luna and of course HAIL TO ALL SUOMI METAL BASTARDS! Bottles up!! METAL, METAL & METAL! And special mention to all Internet associates, especially AML! A big FUCK OFF to the individuals who fucked up the year 2001 for me, I know who you are - piss on your corpses and dance on your graves bastards!

AWAITING DESTRUCTION:

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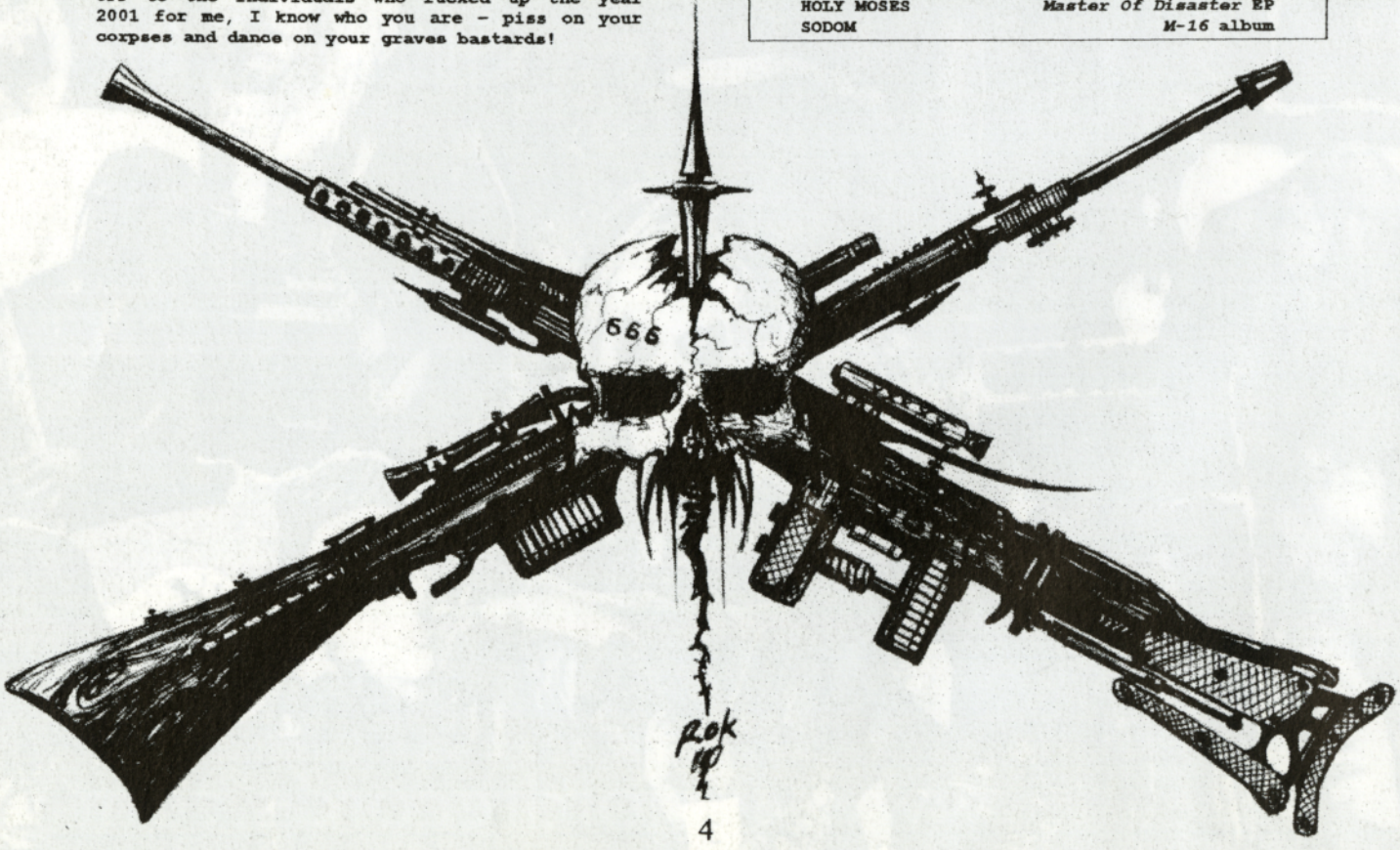
SLAYER MAGAZINE IS ETERNALLY DEDICATED TO THE SPIRITS OF DEAD AND EURONYMOUS! HAIL FOREVER HAIL!

SOUNDTRACK FOR SLAYER 16:

SUN DESCENDS	demo 2001
NECRODEATH	*Pitch As Black* album
HEMLOCK	*Lust For Fire* album
DESTRUCTION	*Antichrist* album
SADISTIK EXEKUTION	*Fukk* rough mix of album
HOLY MOSES	*Master Of Disaster* EP
SODOM	*M-16* album



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HOLY MOSES

HOLY FUCKING MOSES! For everyone who had a slightest interest in Teutonic Thrash Metal you must have heard of thee godly HOLY MOSES. Back in the days they released a handful of really fucking Metal masterpieces like for instance "Finished With The Dogs" which is forever one of the best Thrash Metal albums ever made. As their carrier slowly faded away they even made one album without Sabina Classen on lead vocals. Even if it was an OK album it just didn't feel right without Sabina. Since that Sabina has been involved in the band THE TEMPLE OF THE ABSURD as well as running the BULLET TV thing. Anyway, at the end of 2000 there were rumours circulating that HOLY MOSES was to appear on some of the summer festivals of 2001 and then a bit later it was confirmed that the band signed with CENTURY MEDIA for the "Master Of Disaster" EP! So I was getting really nervous about this - would HOLY MOSES still deliver in the year 2001? Of course they would!!! The material on this EP fits in somewhere between "Finished With The Dogs" and "New Machine Of Liechtenstein". It is really fucking brutal thrash classic material!!!! I must say I was extremely pleased by hearing this. So again I had to face my phobia, picking up the phone and speaking to Sabina Classen for this interview. Yet another goal has been achieved in my journalistic carrier. THE DOGS ARE BACK!

So why did you decide to bring back HOLY MOSES exactly now, and why not earlier?

- It was like a mixture of a lot of things, it always been in my heart. And it was like 3-4 years ago I wanted to start up again. And what I didn't like was this fucking word re-union, because there are a lot of people talking shit about the word re-union. I didn't want to do a 're-union'. I thought when I should do this I would make a real comeback with the band. I love the old HOLY MOSES songs and I love to sing those songs. And on the other side I was going really ill in '99, I got cancer and I didn't talk to anyone about that, I had a real bad operation. And also, about one year ago I had a motorcycle accident so I was again in the hospital. And because of the tumour and cancer I had to go back to the hospital even one more time in September of 2000. So I told to myself I had to do something for myself, I'm a real workaholic and always doing too much stuff. And I need room for what I love. Before the last operation I said to myself: 'I will do HOLY MOSES again' because it is like therapy for me. And two weeks after the operation the doctor tells me everything is really fine, that everything was ok and the cancer was away. So I was driving directly to Andy (Classen) in his studio and said we had to write new songs. So I think all those thing were gathered in my head and it all come together because all the songs we wrote on the "Master Of Disaster" EP is all about my life. So I thought FUCK OFF to all those people who talk shit about re-unions because I need this for my life, so I can be happy again. So all in all that is the reason why the re-union is now. So I wrote the songs "Hands Of Death" and "Master Of Disaster" together with Andy just after the operation in September 2000. So everyone told me this is OK Sabina, you can do this now. So went into the studio in January and recorded the other three songs. So that is the reason why it is now - it really is that time now!

So it seems like the lyrics are really personal then?

- Oh yeah, but I always did that. The lyrics were always special to me because I have had always had personal things in the lyrics. So when you have been near death, two times, so you are thinking a lot of things about life. And you see which people are you real friends, because the time I was in the hospital I lost a few people I thought were friends but they were not friends. People talk shit and people who don't even know me talk shit and all these things. So like for instance in one lyric I say "I ARISE, I ARISE" means for me the people around me try to be something special and try to talk about me and because of that I say "I ARISE, I ARISE" because I see now they were not real friends, just stupid people. So because of the re-union we have this line "YOU CANNOT KILL US, YOU CANNOT KILL US". Because it is my music, I'm the musician and I love this kind of music and I want to do it! And I'm like starting a 2nd carrier. I'm really happy and all those things with HOLY MOSES really mean a lot to me, to be happy again.

So you are not inspired by other bands to do this re-union? I mean, with the recent success of DESTRUCTION in mind you didn't get inspired by that?

- Oh no, because I think everybody has to decide what is right for them and what they want to do. I like DESTRUCTION a lot but it is not the reason because Schmier is doing it I can do it too. I think that everyone has his own reason why he is doing it. So I talked to Schmier because of the BULLET TV and I did an interview with him and I asked him the same question why he was doing DESTRUCTION again. Schmier and I had some things in common, not that he was ill or anything but he was trying to do something with HEADHUNTER but it was not really the same feeling as with DESTRUCTION. He told me he was doing his pizza service and things like that. But he was a musician too and he was thinking about new things to do in his life and he was sick of the business as well just like I was. But when you grow older and see why there were problems in the band and why you had to stop and everything then you start again. So I think that was a bit of the same with Schmier and me. I think it is hard for the people in the press and not the musicians themselves to see why the musician is doing it again. But it is so deep in our hearts, I can't speak for Schmier of course but for me he seemed really earnest because I known him a very long time so. It is fine if you sell albums and you say it is commercial on the one side, but if you can sell albums and live from it is perfect. I think that with the music of DESTRUCTION, HOLY MOSES or any other band we are not top bands and cannot earn so much money because our music and style is so hard, but it is fine for me. Because if you do it because of money which happened to HOLY MOSES in '92 all this business fuck up come to us and it destroyed the band. Because managers and all those other people told us change the style of the band blahblah. So in the past nine years I learned a lot about the business I didn't know before. So now it is all-fresh again and the feeling is a lot better now. Now I know what I want to do and I do it the best way I can.

Ok, when I first heard that you were coming back I just heard it was just for the festivals only, and then this EP. But it seems like it is more things coming from the HOLY MOSES horde.

- Well, when we did those first five tracks we decided to wait to do the full-length album because we did not have so much time in the studio to record more stuff. It is for me like on one side celebrating 20 years of HOLY MOSES and on the other celebrating the fact that I'm not ill anymore. I need something for myself you know. So when I get depressed or whatever I know I still can do HOLY MOSES style. So it was somehow like a present to the fans and myself. So the fans can take something home, and not only a t-shirt. Well, a t-shirt is fine but music is also a great thing to bring back home. So now you can get both, you can get the t-shirt and listen to some great music! So we decided that we should release this EP for the festivals and after the festivals here we are going to Asia as well, Korea. So when we are back from that we start to write more new material for a full length album, and we want to go in the studio then around January or so.

That sounds like good news to me, but let's go back to those festivals you talked about in Asia, that seems a bit strange doesn't it? How did you manage to put that together?

- It was because of the Internet you know. Because this guy was e-mailing me because he heard in New York that HOLY MOSES was back together, that was a funny thing. And he has been a huge HOLY MOSES fan for years and he heard from a lot of people in Korea that they liked HOLY MOSES. So he was writing me an e-mail first checking out if this was real that we were back together. So now we are playing at the 11th of August near Seoul and it is a really huge festival with 500.000 people. And we are playing together with SLIPKNOT, IN FLAMES etc. so this really is something special.

It must be really strange playing there...

- Yeah, and I hate to fly! And now I must do it! But I really don't know hat is happening there so I have to get some more information about the country. We are pretty nervous to do this but it really is something special and it certainly is for the biggest crowd we ever played.

So back to the EP again, it says that you and Andy wrote all the material on it, but he is not in the band?

- Yeah...

What is going on with that? He writes material but doesn't participate in the band?

- Andy is the sixth member of the band but he is not playing with us live. As you might know he is a really famous producer and what he said to me is that he cannot leave his studio, which is a huge problem. Because all the bands booked the studio and he is booked out until next year. And there is really famous bands recording at his studio as well so he can't really say that is going on a tour with HOLY MOSES for 2-3 months so you can't record your album here. He's also on the one side a rather quiet person and he doesn't really like to be on the stage that much. So he told me it was ok that we found another guitar player. He helped us during rehearsal, like for instance the riffs on "Finished With The Dogs" is really, really fast and you can't really listen to the riff on the album. So he played the riffs really slowly and recorded it on a CD and gave it to our guitarist and they rehearsed it together. So the situation is really fine, it is like he is with us in our minds. But also in the band we have the bass player Jochen who founded the band in '81 so I'm not totally alone! HAHA! But for me it is important to have a real band together where I can start with a 2nd career. If I only had the stars in the band who did the most popular albums with HOLY MOSES it would be a re-union but this is really a new band in a way. You know, Uli is now playing in HELLOWEEN and then you would have the re-union feeling. But as I said what I really wanted was to comeback with a 2nd career. So I had to find those new people, which was not easy. It was really difficult to find a guitar player that could play like Andy. The solo guitarist I found near Hamburg and the other guitarist I found far away. He has to make a flight to get to the rehearsal. So when I started to call around and said I need a guitar player for HOLY MOSES almost all said: 'NO! NO! I can't play that stuff!!' So I was getting worried if I ever could find anyone to play Andy's style. And I told Andy no one could do it like you. So now I'm happy that I finally have these people together. We are really feeling fine and Andy is with us, and he will come along to some of the festivals to meet us there. But he will do the production always anyway. So he has to write the songs with me so it really sounds like HOLY MOSES.

Thank you for clearing that up for me, I was wondering why is he not on the EP? Where is he?

- He was slaving behind the D.A.T. recorder! HAHAHA!

So what about your old albums now? Is there any chance of seeing them re-released anytime soon?

- Well, that's a good question. Well, there are some problems with the copyrights because different companies all over the years have released them. So we have been talking to CENTURY MEDIA to see how we can do it. I see that the scene changed quite a bit over the years and a lot of new people are now in the Metal scene and they don't have the chance to get the albums. Or they can get it on EBAY and it is really expensive. I have seen our old albums on EBAY for 50-60-80 DM. And I have seen our "Too Drunk To Fuck" maxi single for 120 DM so I think I have to do something about that. It is not fair I think if people want to listen to the albums and they have to pay 50 DM or so.

Anyway, what about the other band you had, TEMPLE OF THE ABSURD. Is that totally dead or what is going on?

- Well, we stopped the band because I was ill. And that was really the reason why we stopped. But now we recorded one track for a MOTORHEAD tribute. So I was singing with the TEMPLE OF THE ABSURD the song "Rock & Roll". This should be out now as well. And also I have my own recording studio here with the guitar player of TEMPLE OF THE ABSURD. And we are producing bands and everything and besides that he has a new band called BIONICS. So since we have this studio together we always have the opportunity to work on material for TEMPLE OF ABSURD together so whenever I have some ideas we do something together. But with him being busy with BIONICS and me in HOLY MOSES we really have no time for any side projects. And I also do the BULLET TV thing. That was one of the reasons I was so ill, I was doing too many thing always! But I heard that man people also liked the TEMPLE OF THE ABSURD stuff. It was not so fast and it was not HOLY MOSES of course but still people seemed to like it. I guess we will see - we are at the moment a little bit on ice. The MOTORHEAD tribute can be seen as a 'Hello!' We are still here but on the other side it is maybe a good bye? We really don't know, we will see what ill happen but now it is a bit on ice. I don't want to say it is totally split up but now I want to do HOLY MOSES, that is the most important fact now.

Well, personally I have very vague memories of seeing TEMPLE OF THE ABSURD playing a very intense show at WACKEN some year early in the morning. WACKEN is the gathering of the European Metal tribe and HOLY MOSES played there, at the ungodly hour of 14.00 Friday afternoon. Do you think that is a good time?

- NO!!! HAHAHAHA! We would have preferred to play later but as you know they always have so many band. But the good thing about playing at 14.00 is that the people are usually not drunk enough and they have wakened up. I think that most of the people will get there on Thursday night already so I don't think so many people will miss our show if they really want to see us. Originally it was planned that we were going to play on Saturday, but now it is Friday. But it is OK for me because WACKEN OPEN AIR and it doesn't really matter if you play at 17.00 or 22.00 because a festival is a different form of show. The people is always running around seeing if this or that band is playing. So in a way 14.00 is good, everyone has woken up, everyone feels fine and no one is drunk yet.

I think 14.00 sounds good, that's a good beginning I think...

- And then after HOLY MOSES played everyone can start to drink. HAHA! NAPALM DEATH is also playing at almost the same time as us, just a bit later so all those bands is playing early as well. So it is just fine.

I have no problems with HOLY MOSES at 14.00, but did you see when SODOM is playing?

- Yeah, in the middle of the night! After MOTORHEAD I think. That is hard too! I wouldn't personally think it would be a good thing to play after MOTORHEAD.

The line-up at WACKEN this year is really amazing I think. There are so many good bands.

- Yeah, I think this will be a really good festival. It is really a great thing; it is a really huge party. Sometimes it is not so important which bands is playing, it is just a matter of being a part of this great festival.

You are not living o far from WACKEN are you?

- It is just like 60 kilometres. So it is just one hour away.

Well, I spend around 16-17 hours on the bus to get there so, enough of my personal bus dramas here. Besides HOLY MOSES and TEMPLE OF THE ABSURD you have been involved in some other projects as well, like the X-MAS PROJECT and a guest appearance on one of the TOM ANGEL RIPPER'S solo albums. Are there any other things you have been involved in?

- Well, there is one funny secret! There is in Germany existing a band called JUERGEN ZELTINGER BAND from Cologne. They sing in German and play like some sort of punk rock. And they are singing in slang - the Cologne slang. And the guy is gay and really fat and he once phoned me. So I thought that someone was kidding with me. And he said I have this song you have to sing with me. And I think no one outside of Germany ever heard about this guy and he is no really known in Germany either. It is a like a 'cult' thing, like for a special territory in Germany. And I was singing with him a song from another schlager singer. And it was a song called "Wenn Du Denkst, Dann Denkst Du Nur Du Denkst, Ein Madchen Kann Das Nicht" and it means in English if you think you think a girl can't do this. And it is saying things like girls can't drink or go in the pubs. It is a totally stupid song, so we covered this song. It was released on BMG in Germany but outside of Germany I don't think anyone knows about this. The album was called "Fuer Du?".

So was that done recently or?

- It was done in '91 or '92.

Also another thing, you sang "Black Metal" along with Cronos on some WARPATH album or something?

- That was so amazing for me! I was a huge VENOM fan. I met his manager in CANNES in the south of France on the MIDEM. And I told him I would like to do this and he said he was going to phone me up, and one day all of sudden I had Conrad on the phone. He said he was interested in doing this because during this time VENOM did not exist. He liked the idea but he told me I had to write down the lyrics for "Black Metal" because he could not remember them anymore so that was a bit funny. He arrived by plane and I had to pick him up at the airport. I was so nervous when this guy stepped out of the plane, as it was a really small plane. I was so incredible nervous when I was driving to Andy's studio with Cronos by my side. I drove like a little kid. He was a really funny guy and really nice, we did so many jokes together. In the studio it was really funny as well because I sang much louder and harder than Cronos and the singer of WARPATH. So Andy put me in the corner of the studio so I did not sing louder than them. But I thought to myself 'I Can sing louder than Cronos! HEHE!! But he was really a so funny guy. I think he was almost for one week in Andy's studio so it was like a private friendship starting up. And it was funny when I saw him at WACKEN last year. He was really drunk in the backstage area and he screamed out SABINA!!!! When he saw me, he is really great, he is a nice guy.

So did you hear the last VENOM album "Resurrection"?

- Yeah, yeah!!! It is almost like VENOM height, the new stuff is really good. It is better than I expected it to be. You know, I like the old stuff and it I almost as the same situation with HOLY MOSES. Everyone is talking about the old stuff and I get a bit nervous to see what people think of what we are doing now. I think "Resurrection" is really great.

Well, Sabina saw VENOM at DYNAMO a few years ago as well, an event I sadly enough missed out on...

- I liked it better at DYNAMO 4-5 years ago. That was the first re-union show of VENOM and I liked it a bit more. It is the new drummer; I think he is too good for VENOM! HAHAHAHA! That was my problem! HAHAH! I hear a lot of people saying the same: they are too good now! HAHAHA!

Everyone knows that the HOLY MOSES "Too Drink To Fuck" picture disc is quite hard to get, but I have a question about the "Road Crew" "12 you did. Was that released on picture disc?

- Yeah!

With the same cover as the "Finished With The Dogs" album cover?

- Yeah!

OK, I was just wondering about that as it had the same cover so I didn't really understand what it was.

- It was something the record company did at that time. I don't know why they put "Road Crew" on it with the "Finished With The Dogs" cover, typical record company.

The other tracks on that EP, is that live versions or??

- No, it is the normal versions. So the only reason to have this is the fact it is a picture disc. At that time the record company did what they wanted and they didn't ask us. It looks like a "Finished With The Dogs" live album but it isn't live.

So is the "Master Of Disaster" EP going to be released on the glorious vinyl format as well?

- Yes it will be!!! It is coming in September as a picture disc. I like vinyl's too and I have here a lot of vinyl's so it is good. I need the record company to put out our releases on vinyl as well. CENTURY MEDIA is putting out a lot of their releases on picture discs in September because it is easier for them to release them all together and promote them all together. It is really expensive to make them but the next batch is coming out in September.

So the cover of the "Master Of Disaster" EP, is that supposed to be you?

- Yeah, because the title of the EP and the design are belonging together. Before I was joining HOLY MOSES I was singing and playing bass in a band called DISASTER. And Andy was the guitar player with me in DISASTER. And HOLY MOSES 'stole' Andy and as he was going to HOLY MOSES I was alone. I had a drummer but we couldn't play, Andy was the one who could play in the band. So I was pretty pissed at HOLY MOSES! And then they asked me to come into HOLY MOSES; I was the master of disaster. And now I'm bringing back HOLY MOSES! You can see parts of the old album covers in the new cover. And now everything should break out and the sun is coming back to HOLY MOSES. So that's the idea of the cover, we will see how we will do it on the next cover. But now I'm coming back with HOLY MOSES and the music brings life back to me.

By the way, do you know there is a band from Germany called DESASTER in these days also?

- Yeah...

Have you heard them?

- No! But they are playing at WACKEN so I think I have to check that out!!

I think they are a brilliant band!

- Do you know there is another band called HOLY MOSES?

Yeah, an American band I think. I never heard them but I think I saw their album in a list somewhere...

- They are an older band too, and they are playing like an hard rock style.

Have you been in touch with them?

- Well, I e-mailed them: 'CHANGE YOUR NAME DIRECTLY OR YOU WILL DIE'!!!!! Really, I did that! HAHAHA! I found out about them last Friday and I mailed them directly. I send them a MP3 to show them what music we are doing and that we have existed for 21 years. Well, now after all those years I am used to this name but if I was to start a new band now I wouldn't really normally think that HOLY MOSES was the best name for a band. But now I'm used to it.

Well, it will be interesting to see what they have to say about all this!

- But we will win since they exist only since '98 so our HOLY MOSES has existed 18 years longer!!!!

Do you have a copyright for the name or anything like that?

- It is hard work with this copyright, because if you do it for the whole world it is really expensive. But our first demo was released in 1980 so we can show those people our name! I think it is bad getting in trouble because of the band name, but we have things to prove that we go back a long time. I think everyone will laugh of them if they say that HOLY MOSES of Germany has to change their name.

So where does this HOLY MOSES name originally originate from anyway?

- That was from Jochen who is now the bass player. And it was because of SPACE RECORDS; in 1979 they were called HOLY MOSES. And he saw that in the papers and thought that was a cool name.

I think there was a movie called HOLY MOSES as well! Did you know about that?

- No...

I'm not really sure; I can't seem to remember now. I think it was a comedy or something. But I can't remember that now, sorry!!

Well, I think that was all I had to ask for now. Thank you for talking to SLAYER MAGAZINE.

- And the same to you. And hopefully HOLY MOSES is coming to Norway, as I really want to play there. So hopefully next time we can do a Scandinavian tour or something.

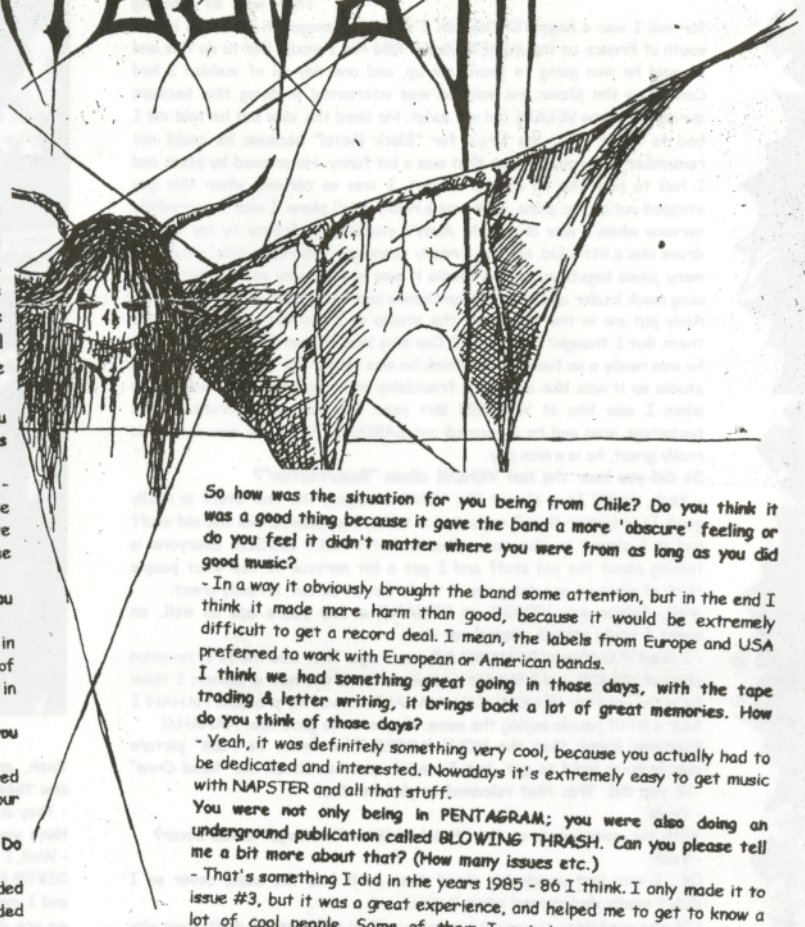
That would be really good if that would happen, but everyone says it is so expensive getting here with flights or whatever.

- It is really expensive, that is true. But we have a really good booking agency so we will see what we can do.

But at least I will see you at WACKEN!

- And then we drink some beers together. So have a nice day today and see you in WACKEN!!! BYE!!!

PENTAGRAM



Again we travel back in time, this time to investigate the phenomena called **PENTAGRAM**, the Chilean **PENTAGRAM**. In their carrier they only released one "7 EP on the CHAINSAW MURDER label in Switzerland as well as a few outstanding demos. They might not be the most talked about underground band but they fit in the classic '87 generation who brought us exceptional releases from the likes of NECROVORE, INCUBUS, MORBID ANGEL just to mention a few. Being from Chile gave this outfit a more obscure feeling...Anyway, since there recently has been released a comp. CD with all the old **PENTAGRAM** material we hooked up with the brains behind the band, Anton, or Behemoth as he called himself in those days...

Tell me exactly when and how PENTAGRAM was formed? Had you made a concept in your mind how this band should sound before it was formed?

- No. Actually, we started meeting with Juan Pablo (guitar) around 1984 - 85 just to bang our heads and drink some booze, but at some point we grabbed a couple of guitars and started playing. Before we knew it, we were working on original songs, which became the backbone of the PENTAGRAM style.

About the early days, please tell how long it took before you felt you had something unique going?

- All this probably got serious when we recorded our first demo in January 1987. But to be quite honest, we only realized the impact of PENTAGRAM after we had disbanded. The feedback was a little slower in those days.

How was it to be a young Metal head in Chile in those days, did you face a lot of problems because of your Metal lifestyle?

- Yeah. Besides the usual problems within one's family it often occurred that you were stopped by the police or even arrested just because of your long hair, black T-shirt and ripped jeans.

So after how long time did you decide to make your first demo? Do you remember anything from you first demo session?

- We had recorded a few rehearsal tapes, but we felt we needed something more professional sounding, so in January 1987 we recorded and mixed three songs. I believe we did it all in one day. We didn't know anything about studio work, except our drummer, so we didn't have a big influence on the sound itself. We kind of left it to the engineer probably.

Well, we might as well talk about all your recordings, please tell about your memories from those days and a small comment on each release.

- We only recorded two official demos actually. The second was recorded in September 1987 with the same engineer but in a different studio, three songs again. We had a more definite idea of how we wanted to sound, but the studio was shittier, so the sound is kind of heavy but not very clear. I remember that studio was close to our friend Pera's house. He was (and still is) bassist and vocalist of Chilean legend DORSO. He would come by and bring us something to eat, and we invited him to be on the tape. Actually, the wicked laughter you can hear during a slow break in "The Malefice", that's him.

You had a very dominant and unique Death sound, what was the main inspiration for the PENTAGRAM sound and how would you be describing it yourself?

- Well it was probably all out Death Metal, and the main inspiration came from SLAYER and POSSESSED, but we listened to all the classics of course, EXODUS, DARK ANGEL, CELTIC FROST, VENOM, you name it. I was also heavily into tape trading, so I got to know a lot of more obscure bands, too.

So how did this deal with CHAINSAW MURDER for the EP come about?

- It wasn't really a "deal", you know. I was trading tapes with this guy Marco from Switzerland all the time, and one day he told me about him starting a record label. He was putting out an album by MESSIAH. He offered to do a 7" so I said great. The royalties were actually copies he sent me to sell myself in Chile. There was some talk about putting out an album later, but unfortunately it never happened.

About the recordings of this EP, they are the same as on the demo, right??

- Yeah, the 7" are two songs off our first demo.

Was it a big thing for you to have a deal for an EP in those days?

- It was kind of cool, but I really wanted to make an album.

Do you think you become more popular because of this EP?

- Probably yes, but I think it spread slowly, very much in the underground.

So is it true then that the master tape for this is still in Switzerland and forever lost?

- I don't know if it's lost, but after we disbanded I was kind of frustrated and angry at the whole Metal scene for a while, so I lost contact with most people, Marco from CHAINSAW MURDER among them.

So how was the situation for you being from Chile? Do you think it was a good thing because it gave the band a more 'obscure' feeling or do you feel it didn't matter where you were from as long as you did good music?

- In a way it obviously brought the band some attention, but in the end I think it made more harm than good, because it would be extremely difficult to get a record deal. I mean, the labels from Europe and USA preferred to work with European or American bands.

I think we had something great going in those days, with the tape trading & letter writing, it brings back a lot of great memories. How do you think of those days?

- Yeah, it was definitely something very cool, because you actually had to be dedicated and interested. Nowadays it's extremely easy to get music with NAPSTER and all that stuff.

You were not only being in PENTAGRAM; you were also doing an underground publication called BLOWING THRASH. Can you please tell me a bit more about that? (How many issues etc.)

- That's something I did in the years 1985 - 86 I think. I only made it to issue #3, but it was a great experience, and helped me to get to know a lot of cool people. Some of them I got to meet years later, like DESTRUCTION, KREATOR or Gene Hoglan.

Did you do the magazine before you formed the band?

- The band was already going, but without a stable line-up and not in a very serious way really. Actually, when things got bigger with PENTAGRAM, I quit doing the fanzine.

If we go back to PENTAGRAM again, can you tell us a bit about your live shows?

- I think we did around ten shows in all of the band's existence, but surprisingly metal became very big very soon in Chile, so in 1987 we were playing to over a thousand people already.

Was there any violence at your shows?

- As far as I remember, there weren't a lot of fights or anything, but the whole stage diving and slam dancing got way out of hand. At that time we didn't have any security either so everyone did pretty much as they pleased.

Even if you had quite a few good bands in Chile it was Brazil that gave the South American scene a face, did PENTAGRAM ever play there or in any other South American countries?

- No, the only shows we played were in Chile. I travelled to Brazil with a friend in February 1987 and stayed at Max' and Igor's house in Belo Horizonte. I realized that the Brazilian scene had a lot more going on, and actually considered the possibility of moving there for a while, but it didn't happen.

How close were you to getting a recording deal with PENTAGRAM?

- Well, in Brazil I was offered a deal and actually signed it, but later, when we started talking about budgets and studios, etc., all of a sudden the guy stopped answering my letters and phone calls. Other than that, there was some talk with CHAINSAW MURDER as I told you, and Borivoj Krgin offered me to be on the "Raging Death Vol. 2" compilation, but that never came out.

Do you think that it is a sad loss that PENTAGRAM never released a full-length album?

- Of course. I think all of the fans as well as us would have loved to have all of the bands songs with a proper studio sound and cool artwork. Plus it could have been the starting point of an actual career.

Now that a PENTAGRAM CD has finally been put together how do you feel about that?

- I think it's great. People have kept asking for those recordings over all these years, so it's great to finally have it out. Eduardo from PICOROCO RECORDS and myself put a lot of energy into the project to make it a real collector's piece.

I think that for many years people have been interested in releasing this on CD. Why did it take so long and why did you decide that now was the right time?

- For a long time I really didn't want to do it because my current band CRIMINAL was the priority for me, and I was afraid that PENTAGRAM would have overshadowed it. Now CRIMINAL has been very successful in South America so this problem isn't one anymore. Last year I was approached by Eduardo to do the reissue, and I gave him my conditions. We worked on it, and finally agreed on everything. I wouldn't have put out something with bad sound or messy artwork.

I never got the story why PENTAGRAM ended, what was the story with your break up? Was it dramatic or was it more of a silent break up?

- There were so many things involved. In the end it just wasn't a priority for everyone as it was for me, so I preferred to let it die. We did one big farewell show, which was packed, so it wasn't really silent you know.

With your band name PENTAGRAM it is of course the Satanic link, how serious was you with that?

- Not really serious. Like all of us probably, we were kind of interested in the occult and dark side of things, but if you read the band's lyrics you'll see none of the typical satanic clichés like VENOM or SLAYER had on their first albums. Needless to say, we didn't take it as seriously as our colleagues from Norway, hahaha...

And what about the names you called yourself, you were BEHEMOTH, why did you choose that?

- Just because it sounded cool. To be quite honest, I was kind of stupid at that time, in regards of being ashamed of my real name, or my short hair. You probably know the story.

You even had a Euronymous in the band, almost anyway, he was called EURYNOMOS, and did you know about the Norwegian Euronymous in MAYHEM?

- At that time we didn't probably, but later of course we learned about MAYHEM.

What is your current view on all the music released in the '80ies, do you still like stuff like SODOM, VULCANO, SARCOFAGO and so on?

- The bands you just mentioned I never really liked that much. I always preferred stuff that was a little more complex. But of course I still listen to a lot of stuff from the old days, like SACRIFICE, NASTY SAVAGE, VOIVOD, NUCLEAR ASSAULT, VIO-LENCE. PENTAGRAM was a Death Metal band, no doubt about it, but as you can see we were never fixed on Death Metal as the only thing we listened to.

Well, after PENTAGRAM you have been doing some other stuff, a bit different than PENTAGRAM but feel free to tell what you have done since then?

- Okay, soon after the end of PENTAGRAM, I started the band FALLOUT with some ex-NECROSIS guys. The style was very METALLICA influenced, and the band didn't last long, although we played a few songs and recorded two demos. After that it took me a while to put another band together, which I finally did with CRIMINAL in 1991. We have released three albums already, toured South and North America, and played with a lot of top acts. If people are interested they can check out our website at www.criminal.cl Our second album "Dead Soul" was released by METAL BLADE in Europe, and we're looking for a label to issue our third album "Cancer", which came out in Chile half a year ago.

I assume CRIMINAL must have been a pretty big band; do you get a lot of people coming up to you after shows and remember you from the PENTAGRAM days?

- Yeah, always. Also people call for certain songs during our shows. It used to bother me in the beginning, but now I'm perfectly okay with it.

So what happened to the other PENTAGRAM guys? Are they still involved in music?

- Well, you must know that our bass player Alfredo killed himself over ten years ago. The other two guys are still playing, but not professionally. But here's the big news: We are rehearsing for a couple of reunion shows to be played in May, and it's sounding great. We would even do some shows in Europe if there were interest.

Thank you so much for doing this; it has been a pleasure, any last words?

- Just thanks to everyone who's been into the band for so long, and to you Metalion for being true to Metal.

DESASTER

Once every few years (if that) a truly special band emerges from the depressing and monotonous metal scene to leave their mark. One such band is DESASTER, who have been in existence now since 1988 and creating their own unique music ever since. Combining traditional Black metal mixed with Heavy / Speed metal and ancient folk like melodies, the four maniacs of DESASTER have garnered a cult following in the scene and a well deserving amount of support among METAL fans. Classic Black/Thrash metal vocals, extremely heavy/catchy Metal riffs and an overwhelming epic/war like atmosphere are all trademarks of this band, but devotion to making FUCKING METAL MUSIC is DESASTER's specialty. I had the chance to talk with Markus (Lord Infernal) about this and a variety of other issues and like always the German madman had much to say!

Let's start with a band bio.... Eh, Nah, scrap that. BORING! Let's start with how you crazy fuckers are doing these days!

- Hail Emperor Wilhelm! Everything's all right here at the DESASTER headquarters, the beers still tastes well and the Metal is hot!

Of course we are now listening to the latest DESASTER masterpiece "Tyrants of the netherworld" released by IRON PEGASUS! I noticed that the production was a bit like it was on the "Stormbringer" M-CD. Darker and Rawer I think then the previous two full lengths. Maybe you agree maybe you don't what are your general feelings on your latest cult record?

- Yes, I agree that the sound is darker and rawer this time. We wanted it to sound this way. You know that we don't like this modern overproduced sound, so we wanted a raw but powerful sound and I think we've reached our goal. The new album is another fist in every posers face and a pleasure for every real headbanger around the globe! Of course we haven't changed our style, we still present the typical DESASTER-sound on the new album with some Speed and Thrash songs, one more atmospheric song and some fast Black/Death Metal songs as well. Everybody who liked our previous work won't be disappointed and I'm sure that even some more maniacs who appreciate traditional Black/Thrash Metal will join the horde of the DESASTER- followers! Yes, we are very satisfied with the album!

I was a bit shocked you decided to leave MERCILESS and join with IRON PEGASUS since MERCILESS was obviously the bigger and more established label. But then again IP is just as much dedicated to the cause of the Metal scene as MERCILESS! You did tell me to that MERCILESS were working far to slow with your albums anyways, especially "Hellfire's Dominion". Was this the reason you left? What do you think about the move and your new alliance with IRON PEGASUS?

- Well, it simply was time for a change, but there are no bad words between MERCILESS and us. Of course we had different reasons for our decision to change the label, but we don't want to discuss this in the public. MERCILESS is a good underground label and Volker (the man behind MERCILESS) is a great guy who has released some great underground stuff, but now with our new label there is some fresh blood flowing around which is very helpful from time to time. Costa of IRON PEGASUS is really very dedicated to Metal, that's very important for us, and what is also a positive point is that he always has some cool ideas concerning layouts and new releases.

How did you get connected with Costa in the first place? Tell us a little about your relationship to him, his label and magazine TALES OF THE MACABRE.

- We know Costa for quite a long time now (I think for about 8 years), we are close friends with him, he's also a member of our HELLBANGERS Metal club, so we meet quite often together with the other crazy bastards, drinking beer, banging our heads and praising the Metal gods together! Of course we also appreciate his fanzine TALES OF THE MACABRE, it ever was one of the best underground 'zines worldwide in my opinion, far away from all modern trends, just supporting cool music. I hope that Costa still has got the time besides his label work to release some more issues of his cult 'zine. And about his label work: He already released stuff from SABBAT, METALUCIFER, ZEMIAL, AGATUS etc., you see: quality stuff for real maniacs! He's not into releasing everything that could be interesting to the trendy kids of today. He only releases original stuff, which he's 100 % personally into.

Do you think DESASTER will remain connected with IRON PEGASUS?

- Well, we are very satisfied with his work so far, so we don't see any reason for another label change at the moment.

Since I last interviewed you for one of my old 'zines you also released the cult double LP "10 Years Of Total Desaster", and should I say it was EXCLUSIVELY on the vinyl format! Hails! While it contained some unreleased material, live recordings and old favourites it did not contain the whole 1989 reh. Tape, except for 2 songs! Will there ever be any plans to release this old piece of German Metal history? And didn't you tell me there was also a reh. from 1988 with you and Creator Cassie?

- Well, we wanted to include one or two songs from every DESASTER release on the anniversary double-LP, so we also put two very old rehearsal songs from '89 on the album. HA HA, I won't speak of "a piece of German Metal history", because at this time we were hardly able to handle our instruments, so the old songs weren't really good. Back then we decided not to release the stuff and only taped the songs to some of our friends, first of all because it really was too bad and second because in that time nobody was any more interested in Satanic stuff. I remember that every mail order sold the old VENOM records at the end of the '80ies for only a few bucks, unbelievable nowadays! Yes, I also have some rehearsal tapes from 1988, too, but the quality of the songs is really not good enough that we could release them. Sometimes I play the old stuff and you can see me sitting here with a big smile on my face because I remember the good old crazy time I had with my companion Creator Cassie, HA HA, but I don't want to torture the DESASTER fans with this old noise!

And since we are talking about the vinyl format what are your general feelings for it? And how does it compare with CD's, tapes and now the ultra shitty mp3's that people download from the Internet?

- We are all vinyl-fanatics, this is the original and the one and only format that suits perfectly to Metal music. What can be better to put a record on your player, open a beer and smoke a cigarette, have a look on the large cover, listen to the good old scratchy sound and remember the good old times? So it's clear that every DESASTER- release must be out on vinyl as well or on vinyl only, these are collectors' items and we always try to make our records a jewel for every collection. I must say that also the sound of a record appeals much more to me than the sound of a CD, it has much more feeling than the digital and often sterile sound of a CD. I don't have anything against tapes; I also work much with tapes and don't forget that tape trading ever played an important role within the underground. About MP3 I can't say anything because I'm not into this Internet stuff, I simply don't have the money for a new computer, HA HA!

Now that we have finally kicked this interview into high gear I'd like to hear EXACTLY how you formed DESASTER, with Creator Cassie I believe. Is it still true that DESASTER are the first German band of the Black Metal variety or what? In a time you say Bermuda shorts and skateboards were in, DESASTER were playing the kind of music to make ears bleed! Ha!

- Well, let's go back in time: I started to listen to Metal in 1986, first bands I heard were WARLOCK, JUDAS PRIEST, ACCEPT... but then in '87 I met Creator Cassie every morning at the bus station to drive to school and he supplied me nearly every day with harder stuff like SLAYER, CELTIC FROST/HELLHAMMER, BATHORY etc. and so I got more dedicated to the extreme and satanic stuff. It were really crazy times back then, we were even drinking beer before school in the school bus, throwing the bottles on the pupils who were into Pop music so that they soon changed to another bus so that we had enough place to bang and stagedive in the bus, ha ha! And after school we immediately went to the local record store to listen to the newest Metal records, buying the best and most extreme stuff, driving to Creator Cassies home, banging our heads the whole day long! I think it was already in 1987 when we had the idea to form our own band, I think it was because we saw VENOM'S Live Video ("The 7th date of Hell") and we were so impressed by this because we had never seen a Metal band live or on video, so we decided to form our own band to produce as much chaos as Cronos and Co. did in the past! At the end of the '80ies nobody was any longer interested in our favourite stuff like VENOM and HELLHAMMER, everybody was into this ANTHRAX bermuda short stuff, even former Satanic bands like SODOM or DESTRUCTION tried to change their image to gain as much success METALLICA did back then, but we hated this and wanted to stay extreme, Satanic and wild like Metal was meant to be in the past! I remember that we had discussions about our name, we thought about "Eternal Torment" or something like that before the DESTRUCTION song "Total Desaster" brought us our band name, I remember that we also had a saying "Let's go to town and cause some Desaster!" and I thought "why don't we call our band DESASTER?" It perfectly fitted to our wild and crazy characters. So the band was born before we had songs or even instruments, HA HA! It was in '88 when we had our money together to buy some cheap equipment, but a drummer was still missing. Creator Cassie knew somebody from his school who played drums, so we asked him if we could make some noise with him and he agreed. So we rehearsed with him from time to time and wrote our first songs, then in summer '89 we performed our first concert, a still remembered event in our region! Unfortunately Creator Cassie wimped out in 1990 so that I had to search for other maniacs to continue and I found them in 1992. So this was the story about the very beginning of DESASTER.

DESASTER also seems to be connected to various other bands around the world as well, like SABBAT for example! Actually I hear they attended a DESASTER release party! Are they to Japan what you guys are to Germany? What do you think about them and other old Black metal hordes still existing today (NUNSLAUGHTER, MORTUARY DRAPE, VARATHRON etc.)?

- I don't know about SABBAT'S position in Japan, I only heard that the Japanese fans don't pay much attention on their national bands, which is a pity I think! Yes, we are in good contact with Gezol(ucifer) from SABBAT (METALUCIFER). I don't know if you heard about it yet: the new METALUCIFER is a German-Japanese co-production; also our drummer Tormentor plays on the new album! So Gezol came over to Germany last year to records the basic tracks for the album and when he was here we just had our release party where Gezol, Tormentor and Blum! (the guitarist of the local Metal band METAL INQUISITOR) performed some METALUCIFER songs, which was really great! I must say that I was never much into VARATHRON, but NUNSLAUGHTER and MORTUARY DRAPE still kick some fucking ass!

Give me some general opinions on the older gods of Black/Occult Metal like MERCYFUL FATE, WITCHFYNDE, VENOM, BATHORY, HELLHAMMER etc. I know these bands play a heavy influence on the DESASTER sound along with the German ones!

- It would take to much time and space to mention all the bands that had an influence on the music of DESASTER because I think every music you like to listen to also have an influence on your own playing. I must say that I'm more into the old '80iess stuff than into all the modern Death or Black Metal bands. You must know that I've witnessed many trends coming and going through my 15 years being into Metal, every trend brought us some fucking great new bands but unfortunately also many bad copy bands, too. I especially think of the Death Metal explosion 1989/90 and the Black Metal hype from 1992. There are few bands from this period I still like to listen to today, but there are much more bands I still adore hailing from the 80s, I think the quality of the music (necessary to get a record deal) in that time was much better.

I see that a lot of people compare you to KREATOR, SODOM and especially DESTRUCTION. I think you guys obviously sound a bit like them but you also have a special trademark in your music that I'll get into on the nest question. What do you think?

- I feel honoured when people say that we are the heirs of SODOM, KREATOR or DESTRUCTION, nobody can deny that especially these three bands had inspired us a lot. We have various Thrash songs in the traditional vein, but you are right, these songs only show one side of DESASTER.

I think one thing that sets DESASTER apart from any other band in our scene today is your use of folk inspired Metal guitars to open up certain songs and then the epic feel of tracks like "Teutonic Steel", "Tyrants of the netherworld" or "Battle Oath" for that matter are a big factor in the music. I truly feel this is a special way of making music, as most bands would rather not use such elements in their music. Comments?

- Yes, some of our songs also contain some medieval-sounding tunes and melodies. I think they have become another trademark of DESASTER. We always pay much attention on variety, so we not only have some straightforward Thrash songs, but also some epic and medieval sounding songs as well. I think that especially these songs prove that you can produce atmosphere also without keyboards, only with the traditional Metal instruments played with passion and feeling. You know that we are dedicated to many different Metal styles and so we absolutely feel no limited in making music we like. We have songs that start with a Black Metal inferno and have an epic MANOWAR-like part in the middle of the song. As long as these different influences fit together we don't hesitate to combine all our inspirations to our very own DESASTER-mixture and I think that is what makes our music to something special. We haven't invented something very new within the Metal scene, but I think you can never the less hear that there is DESASTER playing, no matter if it's a fast Black Metal song or an epic mid-tempo banger!

I've been hearing some wild and crazy stories about the Hellbanger's Moselfranken! Like the fact you are the most feared group in all of Germany! Hahahahaha! But something worries me. I have heard that the official drink of the group has been switched to KinderBeer? Why doesn't Jagermeister or Heineken have a part in the MoselFranken anymore?

- What the hell do you mean with KinderBeer? Our favourite beer is Bitburger Pils, a normal German beer sort but definitely the best beer around! Of course also the maniacs in the club appreciate other drinks. No matter what it is as long as it causes some alcoholic excesses, HA HA! Uaarghh, Heineken is definitely not a good beer, also the Dutch people we know don't like it at all, I think it's only appreciated by some Americans who don't know how a good fresh beer has to taste, HE HE! (Hey! I will drink ANY beer except for Pale Ale! -Wilhelm) Well, it's true that the Hellbangers don't have the best reputation here in our region, it's possible that especially the trendy local clowns also fear our crazy and wild gang of real Metal maniacs, HE HE! But I must say that it's not our aim to cause trouble all the time, we are here to enjoy Metal in first sight, that's the main reason why we formed the club.

You recently told me about this new "7 recording you have been preparing. Is it going to be a split or a single?

- Well, our label boss Costa had the idea to release another split single (this time with ZEMIAL) which is called "Four track attack" which means that there are 4 songs (two songs each band) recorded on a small four track recorder. We want to show the people with this 7" single that good Metal music doesn't need a big production in a big studio; you can also catch a great atmosphere at the rehearsal room if the music is really good. We will have two brand new songs on this 7", one song will later be on the 4th album and one is exclusively recorded for this split. I think it will be released about autumn 2001.

I just have to ask this... What do you think of the movie "Conan The Barbarian"? I don't think movies get much more 'Heavy Metal' then that one. Conan Uber Alles!

- Yes, the first Conan movie is a great one, it has a great ancient feeling but of course it's just fantasy and has nothing to do with historical facts about the ancient Germanic tribes. (Of course not. How many of them do you think were pumped/oiled up with 22" guns? Hahahaha! -Wilhelm)

Ok, my friend Markus AKA Lord Infernal. My utmost hails and support go to you metal brother maybe you could release some important details to the wimps reading this before we kill them! HATE!!!!!!!

- Thank you Wilhelm for the support you gave DESASTER over the years! We appreciate this very much! Possibly there will be another EP released besides the mentioned "7 single with ZEMIAL before the 4th DESASTER- crusade will be unleashed in 2002!

Bang or be banged!
Desaster
C/o Lord Infernal
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Destruction

DESTRUCTION!! DESTRUCTION!! DESTRUCTION!!!!

For me there is no doubt that year 2001 will forever stand in the glory for fucking DESTRUCTION - the legendary kraut Thrash outfit that returned in the year 2000 with the awesome "All Hell Breaks Loose" platter. In the year 2001 they hit Sweden for the very first time, the 20th of April to be more exact. Schmier & co. took a break from their studio recordings at THE ABYSS to celebrate the Swedish CLOSE UP MAGAZINE for their 10 years anniversary. After pestering CLOSE UP Editor Robban for free tickets my comrade and me were well on the way to Stockholm fuckholm. This event took place at a really small, punky club in called KAFE 44 located somewhere in Stockholm. I'm not sure where, we just took a cab! I'm not getting into all the bizarre events going on before we got there (that might end up in the Metalion biography one day!). And to be on the safe side we arrived there like 10.30 in the morning! Luckily there was a fancy pub just across the street serving us fancy drinks and ridiculous amount of beer. The club were the concert was held was among the smaller ones I ever been to (like anyone's living room or something) so in the beginning I was slightly worried if I ever was able to see the stage at all or even DESTRUCTION. Well, no need to worry about that I found out. After a pretty cool set by Swedish Deathsters MURDER SQUAD it was finally time for DESTRUCTION!!!! After all, DESTRUCTION was what I come to see! Luckily there was no problem getting in front row and as DESTRUCTION started with "Curse The Gods" I thought I went to Thrash heaven and died!!!! ARGHHHHHHH!!!!! What a brilliant event!!! DESTRUCTION absolutely maimed and did everything to please the thrash-starved audience!!! We got all the classics, personal requests here and there and even a few surprises. Like the EXPLOITED cover "Fuck The USA" and "Whiplash" featuring a not so very willing Peter Tatgren on vocals. None the less it was fucking killer! I never had been so exhausted after a gig as I was after this - nor so pleased. Seeing DESTRUCTION at such a small place at such at special event was really unique for me. It didn't matter that we had to sleep on the freezing streets of Stockholm afterwards (hotels are for wimps!!!) it was all worth it!!!! THANK YOU ROBBAN AND CLOSE UP FOR HAVING US!! SEE YOU IN 10 YEARS TIME OR SO!!!!

The original plan was to interview Schmier in Stockholm but due to certain circumstances like no proper backstage area or quiet places we decided to drop the idea and instead do the interview a few weeks later as they were playing a few gigs here in Scandinavia as support for DIMMU BORGIR. So again plans were made for an interview to be done in Gothenburg on the 25th of May. Schmier also informed that I could also then have a pre-listen at the then unavailable new album "Antichrist" (best album title ever!!!) At the time of the interview Schmier tells me his voice is pretty fucked so we can only do a short one. OK by me, we already made a new deal for an interview to be done after the album was ready (what we heard was a un-mastered version as well!) So doing an interview under this somewhat chaotic circumstances were maybe not the best but still, this was a most brilliant moment for me. Also there was a lot of verbal input from other alcoholics on the bus (Thank you Tompa). But still, I try to make this like a certain capture of this special moment. I was there - on the tour bus. Schmier was there as well as other Metallic brethren. Sitting there - listening to the new DESTRUCTION, trying to make an interview - drinking, and drinking even more!!! It was just too much. I think I had the best time of my life sitting there! How can anyone understand how important this was for me? Sitting here listening to the tape of this event is rather funny but I believe there is no point in printing the whole damn thing. But anyway, here goes nothing and nothing goes first!!! This is what I could transcribe from the tour bus havoc:

OK Schmier, what can you at this time tell me about the new album?

- It is better that I put it on so you can listen to I so you can form your own opinion you know...

OK, that sounds good to me! I'm surprised you managed to record it so fast because it seems like you have been constantly touring since the release of "All Hell Breaks Loose", how did you manage to record and write the material so fast?

- We kicked our asses you know! We were touring and we come back home and wrote songs and then we went touring again and then writing more songs after we returned. We felt that we had to hurry up concerning this new album otherwise people wouldn't believe in us anymore, so we really made an effort to make this next album as soon as possible.

As I said you played a lot of concerts the last year, have that inspired the music you write now?

- Inspired?

Like the material is more live orientated in a way?

- Maybe this time the material is a little bit more straight forward, maybe even a bit more back to the roots... It is very strait and basic and everyone seems to like it so far.

Is there any surprises on the new album, like did you record any covers or something?

- Yeah, we recorded "Fuck The USA" originally done by THE EXPLOITED, but we are not sure if we are going to release that yet. We might get someone else to do the vocals on it.

Any reasons why you did this peculiar track?

- I'm a fan of good Punk rock you know so why not?

Is it a personal statement from you against the USA as well?

- They suck; they think they are the kings of the world...

Don't you think you will get a lot of bad press when you say things like that?

- I don't give a fuck. They are too stupid to realise that their country is fucked.

But you played a lot of concerts there?

- Yeah, the Metal fest and we did a tour there, the people there is ok but it I the overall American lifestyle I don't like. I been there and I seen some really bad things I really didn't like so...

Mike & Metalion Gothenburg 2001

By now all you can hear on my tape are almost all drunken ramblings in Swedish. ('Hello Sharlee, Hello Tompa!') To give you an impression of what it sounds like – Invite a bunch of your best friends, have a six-pack or so then start on the harder stuff. Then put on some really loud Metal you adore. Then you might have an impression of what it sounds like. It is not easy to transcribe a tape like this when you hear 10 different persons or so... But hey, I'm not complaining. I just felt pity for Schmier sitting in the middle of it and actually trying to give good answers to my questions. I'm sitting there trying to get it all in – I have to capture this moment somehow, fuck yeah!!!! After all, I'm very fucking happy. DESTRUCTION is among my favourite top 3 bands; I'm sitting there getting drunk, drinking Nick Barker's whiskey, (Name dropping kicks ass! I'm cool! ED) DESTRUCTION'S new album blazing in the background. To tell you the truth I can't remember any happier memories of my miserable life! For once I felt like everything was worth it, it pays of being a fanzine Editor after all. In this case it took bloody 16 years but who cares? When you count moments like this it all makes sense. This when you realise you have chosen the right path and Metal is the ultimate high. This is all about METAL FUCKING WORSHIP!!!! Back to the interview – almost anyway:

I re-call Schmier talking about America, that was when all hell broke loose (no pun intended, I'm just a funny guy!) What he was saying was that he was more against the American style of life and all that crap; it was not like a personal assault of American fans. More like all his political bull shit. Well, I guess you know what it is all about. I remember he made a similar statement when they blasted "Fuck The USA" at the CLOSE UP party. And finally I can hear some questions again. I hear myself in a part alcoholic, part nervous voice saying:

Do you ever get tired of being in the studio? You were in the studio for two months, right?

- One month.... We try to come back to life after we are in the studio because we drink so much all the time in the studio, so we try to do other things once in a while.

Do you think that is a bad thing, all this drinking in the studio and so on?

- No, of course not but.... of course it is good to do some other stuff while you are there.

As a matter of fact Mike was in Norway for the INFERNO FESTIVAL. (The reason why Mike was in Norway was that PAIN – the project of Peter Tatgren – played awesome set at THE INFERNO so he come along. I think many people might have been a bit surprised seeing Mike staggering along at the ROCKEFELLER that night.) But you didn't make it there did you?

- No, I didn't go because I met a beautiful girl so I was occupied with other things! HAHA!

Oh, I thought you were a married man?

- No, hopefully I'm not...HAHA!

So during the last year you almost played every corner on the surface of the earth, so what are your new goals now?

- Almost, yeah! Next we are hopefully touring with KREATOR and SODOM in autumn!

ARGGGGGGHHHHHHHHHHHHH!!!! So that is really going to happen?

- We are working on it right now! So that will be very good if that happens.

Have you heard anything about the new KREATOR material?

- Yeah, it sounds really good. It is not like their newer stuff, this sounds much better.

Do you think you with your comeback of German Thrash Metal inspire them?

- They are very inspired by that, I was speaking to Mille and he said I was important to them that DESTRUCTION come back and it was definitely a inspiration for them to make more Thrash oriented material. But their material has to be strong. Mille is a good friend so it will be good touring with them again.

Well, I wonder if I ever can put my faith in Mille Petrozza again as personally I found the last couple of albums to be rather disastrous. If he can come up with something remotely close to "Extreme Aggression" or even "Coma Of Souls" I'd be very happy. Anyway, touring with them and SODOM might fit DESTRUCTION better than playing with DIMMU BORGIR and SUSPERIA....

- But with this tour we reach a lot more people that probably wouldn't listen to DESTRUCTION in the first place. DIMMU BORGIR has been really friendly to us and we are grateful for having them taking us on this tour. We have had a lot of DIMMU BORGIR fans coming up to us after the show saying that they liked DESTRUCTION very much. It is nice to open the eyes of people you know. Hopefully some of them will get into our stuff and check it out.

But don't you find it slightly weird that you are supporting DIMMU BORGIR?

- They actually told us they are ashamed that they played after us you know. At the NUCLEAR BLAST FESTIVALS we played last and we got to meet all the people there. But it is all a matter of business. It is how it works, it is a part of the business side of things and they treat us nice so everything is cool.

You are also playing a festival in Norway in September?

- Yes, we are playing at the festival for the IMMORTAL drummer, the guy who died. We know the guys of IMMORTAL and they are really nice guys so I think it is a good gesture of us to play at this festival for mainly a Black Metal crowd, it is a good thing for us to do.

Since you played so many fucking gigs with DESTRUCTION do you ever get tired of playing certain DESTRUCTION songs live?

- Not yet, not yet. If I did get tired of them I could not play them for a very long time, I still love it!! I love those old songs so. It is my life so I cannot get tired of them.

You also played a bunch of gigs in South America; it seems to be pretty wild down there, that's the impressions I have got anyway....

- Yeah, it is really wild.

I have a friend who saw you in Colombia....

- Where???

Ohhh fuckkkk, I can't remember....

- Cali??

Schimer – Headbanging and happy!
Gothenburg 2001 picture by Metalion

Yeah, yeah, that sounds like it...

- That was really crazy, it was in the middle of the woods.... in the middle of the rain forest. (For a more in depth review of this peculiar event in the rain forest of Colombia please see the review somewhere else! - ED) Well, for me at this moment I decided to save Schmier's voice and rather do another interview after the proper arrival of the new album. After this alcoholocaust it was time to see DESTRUCTION perform on stage again. Well, we almost missed DESTRUCTION due to certain events (Thank you Necromancer!) but were lucky enough to enter the KÅREN place (nice place by the way!) just as DESTRUCTION entered the stage. In pure ecstasy I jumped into the photo pit and took a bunch of pictures before I was eventually thrown out! (Thank you ugly bouncer!) But it was good going out in the crowd seeing DESTRUCTION from the best place ever – from the eyes of a blood starved audience, heads were banging, noses were bleeding! (Thanks again Necromancer!!) Fuck, I bleed for DESTRUCTION! AWESOME!!! If I compare this show to the Stockholm gig the month before, this was more serious, more professionals in a way. This shows DESTRUCTION is a killer live band. I seen them destroying Wacken in 1999, destroying this mini club in Stockholm and destroying this mid size arena in Gothenburg. No matter what DESTRUCTION is the ultimate live experience!!! I can hardly wait 'til I see them again!!!!

HAIL TO THOSE WHO OBEY AND BELIEVE IN DESTRUCTION!

OK, so I heed into the time machine and let a few more months slide away, the new DESTRUCTION album "Antichrist" has arrived and if you wonder what I think about it feel free to check out the album reviews. What more can I say? Sometimes words are not enough!!!!! So I schedule a interview with Schmier on a Monday night in July, a few minutes too late (I don't want to tell you about all the horror stories going on through my mind the measly minutes I have to wait...) Schmier calls and tells me that there has been too many interviews so if it would be ok to do it tomorrow? So "ok" I say (or stutter if you like...), wondering if I ever will get my interview. Anyway, next day (well, night) Schmier is right on time to do the interview. Finally I can do the interview with Schmier without any interruptions!!! ALL HAIL ME! The ceremony is about to begin!

When I first saw that the album was called "Antichrist" I was a bit surprised that you didn't make a new version of your own "Antichrist" from the "Infernal Overkill" album...

- Because then everyone would say: 'DESTRUCTION lives on things from the past, they only cover the old stuff to be successful' and things like that. But it is a good thing to call the album "Antichrist" because the lyrics are in that vein. There is a great book from a German writer called Nietzche, a really popular writer for heavy stuff, and he has a book called in German "Der Antikrist". And of course there is a title that will cause problems.

So don't you think that some people will think you are a Black Metal band now because of that title?

- No, because... Well, I don't think so. Because the Antichrist have nothing to do with Black Metal at all. It is difficult to explain but the lyrics on this album is not Satanic at all. The lyrics are against humanity, against religion you know. And the Antichrist is also some sort of prophet which is also written down by Nostradamaus and stuff. He is supposed to rise in the next few years on this planet. I think this is all pretty interesting stuff so that is why we decided to call the album this. I'm an Antichrist to, I don't like religion, I hate the fucking Christian church.

But do you believe in the rising of the Antichrist?

- Maybe! I don't know, it is pretty interesting what Nostradamus wrote sometimes. We'll see you know... Like I wrote that the Antichrist is re-born in 1999 and he will rise in the middle of this century. So maybe one child was born in 1999 and he will rise in the middle of this century. So maybe 50 years later or so he might be the president of the United States or whatever and then it will be the third world war. And according to Nostradamus' books Adolf Hitler was the 2nd Antichrist. But it is pretty interesting stuff. Maybe it is true, maybe it is not true. It is better than believing in the church to read something like this.

So overall what you are saying is to believe in yourself?

- Exactly!

But why do you think so many people in this world need religion?

- Because they have nothing else to believe in you know. That is the whole problem. Also it is easier to manipulate people in that way also. It has always been like that and I think it is difficult to get people away from it. If the Christian church will die there will come something else to replace it you know. Like all those American sects or something.

Well, as we pointed out earlier you don't like America very much do you?

- You can tell that in the lyrics of the last album. There is one song called "Dictators Of Cruelty" which is about America. The great country of the free! (Insert ironic voice! ED) I have a lot of friends there and I like some sides of the country of course. But I don't like the way they treat other countries. Like this attitude they have that they are so big, that they are the best and so on. It's bullshit...

So you think Germany is better?

- I think so, because we don't open our mouth as much as the Americans you know.

I have this impression that Americans tend to be loud and make their presence known...

- ...And if there is a war, Americans come there to destroy, that's how they keep their economy up. I don't like that.

Well, let's keep the politic comments down for a while and get back to Metal. The cover of "The Antichrist" share some resemblance to the "Infernal Overkill" album...

- It is inspired of course, it is the DESTRUCTION colours and it is the "Infernal Overkill" colours. And it is the world exploding. We had this idea for over one year already. We wanted to have a cover that was more like a easy eye catcher. Something which is not that difficult, "All Hell Breaks Loose" is a great cover and I love it but many people couldn't get along with it because it was too difficult, too much art. And we said this time around we want something more easy, something more catchy. So we said why don't we use the "Infernal Overkill" skull and ad the world that will explode. I think it is a good idea and every body likes the cover so far. It is cool you know, I got the posters today and they look fucking cool!

It will be released on vinyl as well I hope...

- Of course! And the vinyl version is going to be special. I don't know how limited edition it will be but the first print is going to be really cool because we are going to have bonus tracks.

What bonus tracks?

- It is going to be "Fuck The USA" originally done by THE EXPLOITED and a new recording of "Curse The Gods".

Speaking of vinyl, "All Hell Breaks Loose" was released in three different versions wasn't it?

- Yeah, because the first version we did was 1000 copies as a double vinyl. And it was sold out very fast. Nobody even knew it was out before it was sold out. Normally a band sell like 500 or 1000 copies on vinyl. But it seems like DESTRUCTION fans like vinyl so we did a 2nd print and that was also sold out very fast. And then the last print was in red vinyl. Nobody knew we would sell so much vinyl's so that's why we had to print them so many times. But this time we are hopefully going to do things right and print up a couple of thousand in advance. But the thing with vinyl is that you never know how many copies you are going to sell.

Yes that, sounds like a good thing to do against the fans. Personally I bought all three editions of the "All Hell Breaks Loose" vinyl....

- You bought it three times????? You're crazy! HAHAHA!

So what about this thing who says "All Hell Breaks Loose" on red vinyl is only printed in 300 copies? Can we really trust that?

- I don't know! Because I heard they printed 1000 copies on red vinyl too! They told me that the black vinyl version was sold out and they were going to print another one on red vinyl. I have to talk to them and see how many copies who were printed. If they are going to print 2-3000 copies I think they all should be the same you know. (Well, according to the NUCLEAR BLAST mail-order catalogue it says the red vinyl is only printed in 200 copies, well, I'll rest my case. I really don't care either as long as I have a copy myself. But record collectors take note – limited editions is probably not so limited editions anyway - ED)

And there is even one more vinyl, the "7 EP of "Whiplash", that is a pretty nifty item.

- I think that is a really cool thing. Just 1000 copies printed! (Well, we'll have to see about that, huh? - ED) It is on red vinyl, one live track on the B) side and it is a single. Hardly anyone is doing this anymore so I think that is very cool. And you only pay like 7 DM for it and that is like two hamburgers or something. (Well, not in Norway! ED) It is really great and I'm really proud that NUCLEAR BLAST did that for us because they don't do that for every band. We just played at the WITH FULL FORCE FESTIVAL and I think we sold a couple of hundred copies there. A lot of people come up to us and had the "Whiplash" EP they wanted us to sign.

On the American CD version of "All Hell Breaks Loose" the song "Whiplash" is featured as a hidden track, why is that?

- Because Americans are stupid!!! Because we thought we could get easier into the American market by putting "Whiplash" on the promo. So it maybe would get more airplay. So if the Metal radio stations played "Whiplash" they would maybe play more DESTRUCTION material. Because it is really difficult to get into the American market. But they fucked it up and produced it as a hidden track. I was totally upset about that. They really fucked it up. The American NUCLEAR BLAST team is totally different now. I think they fired everybody so it is all new people now. They had many problems in the past I guess.

But originally "Whiplash" was only meant to be on the Japanese edition of "All Hell Breaks Loose", right?

- Exactly! But also for the American market (but not as a hidden track) because both these countries release the albums a lot later. A lot later than we thought so therefor we had to release a bonus track for those.

Have you played in Japan yet?

- No, no. Sadly no. It was too early I think. It is really difficult to play in Japan these days. You can't go there with only one album when it is a comeback album. So we said we played so many concerts and we are going to come to Japan.

Yeah, you basically played all around the world but not in Japan...

- But Japan will come one day to! Its just going to take a bit more time.

But you played in Japan earlier with your HEADHUNTER project...

- Yeah, that was killer, it was really good!

Because I have a old HEADHUNTER shirt from that Japan tour you did in '91!

- Really??? Cool!!! How did you get that?

From a guy in Germany, it has this shrink like head on the cover as well as the tour dates on the back.

- Cool, I don't even have this. It is fucking rare. The thing is that the shirts were totally sold out at the shirts in Japan. We didn't know we would sell so many shirts so it was sold out on the 2nd date already.

You are still going to play on this festival here in Norway aren't you?

- Yeah, we are still going to do the tribute show there in Bergen.

I can bring the shirt there so you can see it.

- Yeah, that would be cool..

I don't think so many people have seen it so...

- No, it is really rare. I'm pretty sure that no one in Europe has it you know!

How come DESTRUCTION use so much of the colour red? Like the press photos, album covers etc.?

- It is like fire, I like that. The logo has always been red and it has to be red. But on the last album it wasn't red enough, it was more like dark red you know. But on this new one we are going back to the more traditional red.

But there isn't any special other reason?

- For the pictures it is the fire thing. And I think the logo hits harder if it is red. It has to go through your eyes and hit you hard. I don't like too much colours. Also when you play live on stage and things I think red is like fire on stage and it looks killer. There is only two colours that I like and that is red and black. It is blood and the classical black stuff.

Red is like a Metal colour...

- Yeah, it is defiantly!

Also on some of the new press photos you have this guy posing as 'Mad Butcher', you found him because of a competition you did or...

- Yeah, we were looking for him through magazines and so on and finally found him. He really looks like him, he is perfect. He is the reincarnation of 'Mad Butcher'.

So he was a fan also?

- We had a lot of people that wrote in but his guy is not even a fan! He is just a freak...

He is just the 'Mad Butcher'...

- Yeah, he is the real one...hehehe.

About "Antichrist", you recorded again with Peter in Sweden...

- It was a good decision I think. Because we knew from the beginning what to do better. And also Peter had the same thoughts on how to produce the new album. It turned out to be as cool as the first time but we progressed a little bit by putting a bit more Thrash into the production.

So you are not tempted to record in Germany with Harris Johns or something?

- No... But maybe with the next album we are going to go somewhere else. But I love Peter and I love his studio. Maybe next time we should try something else. But I'm sure we will go back to THE ABYSS one day as it is really great to record with Peter. He knows his shit.

Is Peter playing something on the album?

- This time, hmmm, let's see. I think he did some backing vocals. He was more like really into his mixing and producing stuff. He didn't touch too much instruments this time. He was really concentrated on his producer job.

So how long time did you spend in the studio this time you said?

- We've been there for three and a half weeks. And we also did two shows in Sweden in between. We recorded the backing tracks, guitars, bass and drums in six days. And then we started to set up the sounds and everything else. We recorded everything on the desk and then put it into the computer to mix it.

You don't spend so much time in the studio...

- We play Thrash Metal, it is rock & roll, it is no computer music. It doesn't have to be so clean or so tight you know. Of course it has to be tight together but if you spend too much time on it, it is going to sound too clean and not scratchy anymore.

That's maybe the danger that some bands spend too much time in the studio?

- It's bullshit, I hate that!!! Before we recorded the album we recorded a demo version of it in one day! One day recording and one day mixing eight songs. I don't give a fuck, it was great it sounded good you know.

As we pointed out earlier the album is maybe a bit more straight forwarded or so...

- That's what everybody says. Everyone says it is more straight forward. And that it is more old school. That's what everyone says, I don't know myself. I just play on this album, I can't tell.

I personally really loved your last album but this new one is certainly better by all standards.

- That's cool, because many people thought that "All Hell Breaks Loose" was just one stroke from some old people. I think it is a good surprise that this new album is also very strong so people will see that it was not only like a one night sensation with DESTRUCTION. We can continue to do good music and good songs. Now that e are together the song writing team is working very well together those days you know. So I'm looking forward to the future. The next album is going to be different, it has to be different, but we are not going to go away from the roots you know.

The opening track on the album is called "Thrash 'Till Death", don't you think that is a bit cliché like?

- Of course. Why not? We started with the clichés so... Also the DESTRUCTION words appeared in other bands later on also. I like to play with the clichés some times as long as it doesn't get too much. But I think it fits perfect to the song and it is a real Thrash song. The lyrics are about believing in our music you know so therefore it is all right. If the whole album would be like this it would be silly, but for this one song it fits perfect – it is from my heart. Listen to the lyrics carefully and you will find a lot of references to a lot of old Thrash bands.

Do you know if any other band used this same phrase as a song title?

- I think WHIPLASH used it for a song. But I realised that after the song was ready and I was like 'AHHHHHH'... The title was there before but I didn't know it. I was going through my old records and I found the WHIPLASH album and I was like 'OPS!'. But who cares??

But you wouldn't call the album "Thrash 'Till Death"?

- Oh no, that would have been a bit too much then.

So have you signed like a long term deal with NUCLEAR BLAST now?

- Three records. One more after this one maybe...we'll see. We have to see how much we sell, it all depends. If we don't sell enough we might get dropped. NUCLEAR BLAST just dropped MANOWAR and they just dropped HELLOWEEN, and SKYCLAD too I think.

It is strange with NUCLEAR BLAST now because a lot of the recent releases has been like live albums or comp. Stuff from bands like DEATH, CREMATORY, IN FLAMES or whatever...

- I don't know, but maybe it was the right time for them to do so... CREMATORY split up anyway. And for IN FLAMES I think it was about time they did a live album. And DEATH....

Well, personally I really don't care as long as I get some good stuff once in a while...

- It is good live albums also, it depends you know.

I just thought it was so many live albums released at the same time.

- Maybe it was just by accident you know.

Another thing that was going on was that there was going to be a bonus CD released along with the regular version of "Antichrist" with some new up and coming bands.

- Yeah, but this won't happen because so many magazines send in the entries too late. So we have to find out how we are going to work this out. So far there has been like around 15 magazines who send in a couple of songs. But a lot of the magazines send the stuff here too late so the release date of the album was a problem. Every band has to confirm the songs and stuff and it takes a while to get everything done. But NUCLEAR BLAST said we had to keep the release date and since he magazines send in the stuff late we have to find out a way to work it out. We are going to feature some of the best bands in one way or another. So we have to see how we should work it out. There was some really good bands there. But also a lot of crap of course, a lot of stuff I didn't like much. I was hoping for some Thrash bands of course. There was some nice Thrash bands and also bands doing DESTRUCTION cover songs. And also a good return from a German band called NECRONOMICON. They have a new demo and I think it is really cool.

NECRONOMICON, they are from the same city as you aren't they?

- No, they live like half an hour away from here. The newer stuff sounds really cool. Real Thrash again. They are kicking ass again and the songs are really good. The demo sound is not so good but the songs are really killer.

Well, you don't need a killer production to hear the quality of the songs.

- I told them if they got a record deal I'd be interested in producing their album.

Hasn't there been anyone from DESTRUCTION playing in NECRONOMICON at one time?

- No, they are just old friends.

Oh well, maybe I just mix up because you are from almost the same area. The success you had with DESTRUCTION since the release of the "All Hell Breaks Loose" album in 2000 must have been a big surprise for you?

- Of course. I was expecting it to be good but I was also a bit sceptical because Thrash Metal is not really a hype thing right now. We have to fight for our fans and we have to work hard with that. But I think it has been working very well, we've been playing many shows all over the world and we reached a lot of fans. We also got a lot of new young fans also. Because when we started DESTRUCTION again a lot of people thought we would only have the old fans coming to the shows. So of course there is the old fans there but also new, young fans interested in the music now. So that's cool.

So do you think DESTRUCTION is somehow responsible for getting Thrash Metal popular again?

- I don't know, I'd like to be responsible for that of course but... for that we also need some other bands. I think it is very important that the new albums by KREATOR and SODOM is going to be good. So we can have this German Thrash thing again. We are going to go on tour with them in December. And therefor we need strong new albums and then Thrash Metal survives again easily. It needs good releases and it needs good tours and then we will see what is going on. I think the young fans are hungry for it!

Don't you think it also should be some young Thrash bands also trying to conquer the Thrash throne?

- Of course, that is also coming up with Thrash stuff those days. But it is also important that the old bastards shows them how to do it. And I think bands like DARKANE do good stuff, it is like a new wave of Thrash. It is technical and in your face - I like that. I think it is a good movement because the Black Metal thing is getting boring. The big bands will probably survive and do good albums but with all those following bands it is not interesting anymore.

I think one thing that happened with the Black Metal scene was that it took itself too serious. But the case with Thrash Metal is that it is more honest - or real - or something like that. It is nothing really strange about Thrash Metal.

- That's true, and we also have a different kind of attitude than most Black Metal bands. The tour we did with DIMMU BORGIR was really cool so no complains. They treated us good and the fans were nice so I can't really complain.

That was a pretty short tour wasn't it?

- It was for two and a half weeks or so.

I saw you in Gothenburg on that tour...

- It was strange in Gothenburg because there was not so much people because when you think of all the bands like IN FLAMES and so on coming from Gothenburg you would expect more people to be there.

I think that was also because you played on the same weekend as the "2 HEAVY 4 U FESTIVAL" so I think a lot of people had already gone there.

- Oh yeah, that's right, I remember now....

So that's why I had to see you in Sweden instead of Norway because I wanted to go to that festival to see NIFELHEIM and so on.

- The Oslo show was fantastic. It was sold out and it was a good atmosphere.

To return to the current Thrash Metal scene, did you hear the HOLY MOSES EP "Master Of Disaster"?

- I didn't hear the EP but I saw them live and that was really good actually. I haven't heard the EP yet but people have told me it is not so good. But I need to listen to it myself to build my own opinion on it.

I think it is pretty fucking good, I like it!

- Yeah, I better listen to it! They really kicked ass live. I was surprised by that.

Hopefully things will go their way too!

- Sure! We talked to Sabina (HOLY MOSES) and maybe they will be on the tour with SODOM and KREATOR., I don't know yet. We are still looking for a opening band. We would like to have a young band opening up. Maybe DARKANE or something.

I heard something about WITCHERY being on that tour as well.

- We'll find out. WITCHERY, DARKANE or THE HAUNTED or something like that. We have to find that out, it is also in the hands of record companies and stuff like that. The tour is going to start in Europe and we are going to try to go as far as possible afterwards.

Shit, I need to save up some money so I can follow that tour for a while!

- It is going to e killer man. Its going to be history!!!

So is Japan the only place you haven't played yet?

- Hmmmm, Australia! Let's see, hmmmm, which countries didn't we play? Russia... We played some parts of Russia like Estland, Lettland and Litauen.

So you didn't get into any problems with the Mafia?

- No, but we had some problems on the borders some times. Strange stuff, but the shows were all right. And Turkey was very strange too. Turkey is like, it is a very strange land. Lots of military power all over the country.

How is it when you play in Germany? Is that a good thing for DESTRUCTION?

- I think in these days it is very cool actually. It is our home and people appreciate that we are coming from Germany. We are cooling it down right now to play in Germany due to the coming tour. But we have done some very good shows in Germany, some really wild ones. We done some headlining gigs in Germany and I was very surprised. A lot of people showed up and stuff so... We'll see, Germany has supported us very well so far. It seems like we have the biggest fan base in Germany if it continues like this.

The German market for Metal is very big...

- It is very, very big. But also very overloaded. In a way it is very difficult to get to the fans. A lot of tours don't get many people at all. Sometimes there can be as little as 50-60 people showing up for some gigs.

Because there is so many concerts...

- In the big cities it is a show almost every night. That's too much.

That is strange, because up here we are very happy to have any kind of gigs.

- Yeah, I know. Especially with this gig in Bergen. I hear that there is not so many big concerts there.

It is probably mostly local/Norwegian bands playing there, but it will be really cool seeing DESTRUCTION there. Also DESTRUCTION was supposed to be playing a show with EXUMER in Brazil but since that was only one or two gigs DESTRUCTION decided to wait as it was not worth to go there to play one gig only as DESTRUCTION is planning a full scale South American tour where they also want to go back to Colombia. So are Mr. Schmier in touch with any of the new South American bands.

- I met a lot of people who were playing in bands down there, but the recordings of the bands was not so good actually. It seems like many of them just started and they are getting better and better now.

I remember in the '80ies there was tons of killer bands from Brazil for instance.

- Yeah, because SEPULTURA were from there and they started a big hype. But not so many bands from Brazil made it. SEPULTURA and ANGRA and a couple of others maybe. It is difficult for them I think, it is difficult for them to get a European contract or an American one.

So where do you think DESTRUCTION has done the best gigs so far? Where do the fans appreciate you the most besides Germany?

- It is difficult to say. Bogota in Colombia was one of the highlights of this year. Also San Diego in Chile was really good. We done a lot of good shows, Barcelona was very good. Paris was very good, Helsinki in Finland was great. It is difficult to say, we done a lot of great shows - and also some bad ones - in America! HAHAHA! Nah, we had some great shows in the states, like at the 'Milwaukee Metal Fest', that was really good.

How long was the American tour you did?

- Three weeks, that's enough.

You always hear those horror stories about doing shows in America where the promoters are running away with the money and shows are generally badly organised.

- Yeah, exactly. HAHA!

Is it possible at all to make any kind of money on tours like that?

- It is not really possible. It depends, perhaps when things get bigger and more people will come to the shows. In general we draw between 200 and 400 people a night and it is not enough in America because it is such a big country. We had to travel every day for ten hours or more. And even with bigger bands like TESTAMENT they don't draw more than 5-600 people.

It is different here in Europe, if you travel for ten hours or so most likely you will be in a different country.

- Yeah, that's one of the reasons it is difficult to make money in America.

Do you make enough money with DESTRUCTION to live on?

- I try to!! We will see after "The Antichrist" how things go. It is ok, maybe not enough to live totally good on the music, but it is enough to survive these days you know.

But you still have your restaurant business also, right?

- Yeah, so I have another thing planned.

So is the other guys doing anything else?

- No, Mike is just smoking and playing the guitar all day.

What a surprise!!!

- HAHAHAHA!

I think a band like DESTRUCTION deserves to live on the music.

- I think we now have gone a step further. We will see how "The Antichrist" goes but we are already surprised by how much "All Hell Breaks Loose" did so... We have a good deal with NUCLEAR BLAST and we earned more money than we thought and that is a good thing. It is not millions and it is not enough to make a big living out of it, but it is enough. And it is better than in the past. NUCLEAR BLAST is a fair company and we have a good deal so everything is all right.

Lots of bands say they earn most of their money on merchandise.

- Yeah, of course. But it is on the tour you make the most money with merchandise. The mail-order is not so good, on tours you have a better percentage on the merchandise.

It is safe to say that DESTRUCTION is a old school Thrash bands but do you also get influenced by some newer stuff?

- I'm not so much into newer bands. Mike likes some newer stuff like PANTERA and stuff. But I like the traditional stuff, but I do buy sometimes new stuff too. I like traditional stuff mainly, but I'm pretty open minded. If it is a good album it is a good album doesn't matter what style it is. Of course it has to be hard and of course it has to have guitars. And as long as nobody raps it is ok by me.

So you buy a lot of albums?

- I buy the stuff I really like. But I have a lot of friends in record companies so I get a lot of free stuff. But I'm buying stuff too, if it is interesting, for me I will buy it, I don't have a problem with buying records.

I think it is good getting a lot of records even if they are shitty to see what is going on in the Metal scene.

- Exactly, it is interesting to hear the bands the people are playing in. For me it is important to see what is going on in the scene. To see what is interesting or what is not interesting.

That brings us back a bit to your current audience, are you surprised that so many Black Metal kids is into your music?

- Yeah, of course. Also with DESTRUCTION we have been very extreme from the beginning and we also had very extreme lyrics so I guess that's why...

I think also in the early days DESTRUCTION were considered as a Black Metal band...

- Yeah, because we had really heavy lyrics and the music were anti religious. There is still good Black Metal out there and I met a lot of those bands and they seem to be all cool guys so I don't have a problem with that.

As far as Black Metal goes there is still some good bands out there but too much crap.

- Yeah, of course. It is always like that. If there is a trend getting big everyone is following and everyone starts to sound the same.

Also I think that a lot of Black Metal bands can't really cut it when it comes to live performances.

- Because it is easier to make the product in the studio...

Also the keyboards are destroying a lot I think, some bands do it in a cool way but far too many use the keyboards in a wrong way.

- They keyboards are easy to play because they are electronic, it is a digital thing, so it is no miracle to make the keyboard sound good live. But it is more difficult to play the guitar right.

I think the trio format is perfect for a aggressive Metal band as it has no room for any kind of other bullshit.

- I think we make more noise as a trio than other people so....HAHAHAHA!

Well, our time is running out and Schmier is again running late with his interview schedule so I progress towards the end here. Maybe a few words about the live video with RAISE HELL, CREMATORY, KATAKLYSM and of course DESTRUCTION.

- It was a thing that NUCLEAR BLAST did and it was ok. It was only four songs by each bands but it is at least something for the DESTRUCTION fans that haven't seen us live yet. We are going to do our own home video in the future so, so this can be seen as just a little appetiser or something.

OK, so we can look forward to that in a not so very distant future. Anyway, I think I better stop now so I can let you go now.

- So you got everything?

Yeah, I think I have plenty of material here to work on...

- Yeah, we did a part of it in Sweden also so...

Oh yeah, but the problem with that interview was that it was so many people on the bus...

- So you couldn't hear hat was going on? HAHA! Was it that bad?

All you can hear is all those Swedish people babbling about...

- HAHAHA! Scheisse...

But now I have enough material to work with...So I'll catch up with you when you come to Norway then!

- Yeah, I'll see you in Bergen!

And I'll bring the HEADHUNTER shirt!

- Cool!!!

So thank you very much for doing this interview!

- No problem man! I'll see you there. BYE BYE!!!

NIFELHEIM

You know, I have actually had people coming up to me and saying that SLAYER MAGAZINE has been loosing credibility due to featuring NIFELHEIM in every issue. Yeah, right! Well, I'm sorry to disappoint that deluded reader once again. Here we are with yet another NIFELHEIM interview and I assure you this is not the last one - not by a long shot! Well, enough my ramblings already! HAIL FUCKING NIFELHEIM! Here is Tyrant!!

The year 2001 has been pretty fucking strange, also this is the year that NIFELHEM started to play live. First concert was held at the 2 HEAVY 4 FESTIVAL in Sweden. What are your impressions from that festival?

- It was a pretty cool festival. we decided to play our first gig there because we thought it was a good warm up start to do a pretty small gig and some heavy reasons were also that great and obscure (anyway in Scandinavia) metal bands like ROOT and KORROZIA METALLA were supposed to play there as well. Unfortunately KORROZIA METALLA had to cancel but ROOT did play a great show there! To say some more I can tell you that after descriptions from the organiser we thought that everything should have been much bigger than it was, so we were pretty surprised when we saw the tiny stage. The strongest impression was anyway that Arne Babb appeared in the sky when we played! (A BABB IN THE NORTHERN SKY! I'm glad that someone else witnessed this unique event as well! ED)

After waiting so long to play live was it worth it?

- Hell yes! the world need some darkness and evil! we have as many already know tried to get a line up for fucking ages! So it feels really fine to at last have played some fucking cursed gigs.

How would you describe the feeling to play live, was it what you expected it to be like?

- Pretty much yes. it is a great feeling playing live, especially for NIFELHEIM because we have waited for so long. But anyway I'll probably never will be satisfied because I want everything to be so fucking extreme and brutal it will be impossible! Like putting napalm on the audience etc. Total death!!!

So tell us a bit about the other gigs you did in Holland and Germany?

- The second gig we did was in Germany at the "UNDER THE BLACK SUN" festival that has got a pretty bad name, so we choose to play there. I think it was a great gig, we all had a great feeling onstage and most things went ok. On the other hand we had almost no stage show equipment because it was a fucking festival and we didn't get permission to use some of our stuff ,so that's probably the reason why not so many things fucked up. Well, by the way, we forgot our set lists so we had to run around and decide which song we should play all the time and the drums broke in almost every song which we had to fix every now and then, but what the hell! I don't care so much about shit like that, that gig was totally ok. Then we played a festival in Holland called 'Stonehenge'. That was also a pretty great show, the most shitty thing though was that it was fucking light outside when we played and a very small stage but, anyway, we had pyros (that was working for the first time) and we tortured our drummer which was nice! The third gig was indoors in Holland. That must have been our best gig this far. we have developed from every gig so I just want to say that we will be MUCH worse in the future than we are now!

UNHOLY DEATH

So do you feel that the NIFELHEIM machinery is working well in a live situation?

- Yes, and it's getting better and better. we had only rehearsed the songs with our new(est) guitarist about 3 times before the first gig so he had a real hard work to remember everything. Our other guitarist had never even recorded a demo before he joined NIFELHEIM and he had of course never played live before so he is also doing a great job! So I think that after the circumstances the machinery is working really well! We still need a bit more practise before we are the best, but that time will come. Our gigs are already much better than all other wimpy Black Metal nerds other crap!

So what about the new members, it seems like they all fit in. Or can we expect some changes in the line-up soon?

- Me and Hellbutcher have decided very carefully which persons that would be the best for the band before even asking them if they would like to join so I cannot see any reasons for any line up changes for a long time now! This is the strongest line up we have ever had.

You have a strange habit when it comes to drummers, one previous session guy is in CRADLE OF FILTH and your current drummer also handles the drum sticks in WITCHERY. A band not really loved by NIFELHEIM, what's your take on that?

- Fuck off!!!!! I think we have to kill them!

What kind of people do you see at NIFELHEIM concerts? Do you have faith in future Metal generations now after you must have seen many of them up-front for yourself?

- Welll! - to my pleasure there are actually not! There are mostly older bangers that seem to worship the band most, the really true people who have been into the scene the longest time. You know, the ones that knows for real what real black speed metal is about! The average age of the audiences have been around 30-40 years old but of course there are some younger people as well but we have succeeded to sort out the silly trend kids that listen to all new shit Black Metal bands! Our evil is too much for them, they can not take it!!!

You do not only play your own originals live, you also play a cover of the Russian KORROZIA METALLA, how come you chose a cover by them?

- When we heard that KORROZIA were cancelled from the 2 HEAVY 4 U festival gig we thought that we at least should do a cover of the band! And we thought the song were so great we also played it at our other shows as well. It was a success, especially in Germany.

Do you plan to record that song for a EP or album or something? There was some talk about a "Tribute To The East" CD, please tell more...

- We are planning to do a record (mini LP) with only covers of east European/Russian bands. Its the time to give some honour to the true evil bands from the east, they are all much more cruel and sick than the bands that normal Black Metal kids listen to! We will probably choose some more famous classics for the bangers from the East ,which for the rest of the world is totally unknown. Unfortunately many people aren't worthy to even hear those bands, but they most likely doesn't understand or like it anyway.

You once said to me that the new NIFELHEIM material could be described as IRON ANGEL playing "De Mysteriis Dom Satahanas", how much new material do you have and when can that be expected?

- ...That description is not totally wrong. Well... we haven't finished any new song since "Servants Of Darkness" but it's coming soon. We have some almost finished stuff and it is even darker than before!!! Probably it will take sometime before any new record will be out but I don't care because as some of you understand it's better to wait until the material is fucking perfect before you release it. so posers don't wait, go and die instead!

Are you pleased with the way BLACK SUN is treating you? Do you want to stay on that label in the future?

- They are ok. We haven't wanted to kill them yet. I don't know how long we will stay on that label.

BLACK SUN also have some very annoying bands, doesn't that bother you?

- I don't even know what more bands they have but it sounds annoying. Anyhow, we didn't sign there to listen to the other bands! If they are annoying we have to rape them.

I think lately we had some pretty killer releases by bands like NECRODEATH, DESTRUCTION and so on so there are some good new stuff coming, the Black Metal genre is pretty lost, how do you see, have you experienced any new good extreme music lately?

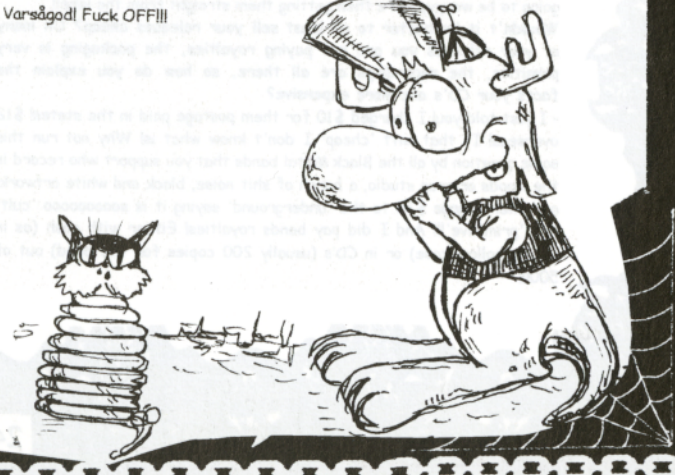
- Not particularly much, the new SARCOFAGO CD ("Crust") is great! And the latest EXCITER album ("Blood Of Tyrants") is fucking great! That album is much more extreme and violent than all new so called extreme bands!!! And also the new album by KREATOR is very good, there are some killer releases from the old bands, but there are no new bands that I really like. Fuck off to all new bands! Please stop bothering me with your existence!

There has been some talk about a tour with you and DEATH SS, can you tell me about that?

- Yes, we will do some tour with Death SS in Italy and maybe some other countries as well. I am not sure when right now, but we have talked about it together for a pretty long while now. Probably it will be next year!

THANKS!

- Varsågod! Fuck OFF!!!



The King And I

A channel of communication involving King Fowley of DECEASED... and Metalion

A gentleman that needs no formal introduction is King Fowley, known to his work in the awe-inspiring DECEASED... as well as other things, like the OLD METAL RECORDS label. King is known to speak his mind, so for the first time ever I did an interview with King about a lot of things.

First of all I want to discuss the matters of your label OLD METAL RECORDS with you, ready?

- You got it man! Always ready to talk Metal!

In the beginning you said you did some of those releases because they were out of print and you did it so people could get them again. Now we have the situation where also a lot of your stuff is out of print. Isn't that a bit fucked? How do you defend this situation?

- Well I had them readily available for people to purchase for great lengths of time! I had to pull some titles due to bands not wanting them in mass quantity etc.! Other titles were 'unofficial'! I tried my damnest to get people back into bands like GRIFFIN, WILD DOGS, SOUND BARRIER, etc. Again!!!! I thought the underground 'cult' Metal scene needed this side of Metal to re-emerge!

You are not so fond of the name bootlegger are you? But that's what you are doing, right?

- Well on a few titles we went all around asking 'this' and 'that' from labels that once had the stuff. And people would give us the run around! So we got them out there for the masses! If bands came around or labels got upset we pulled them! Just about every band knew what was going on! IRON ANGEL, GRIFFIN, WILD DOGS, LAAZ ROCKIT, BLESSED DEATH, SOUND BARRIER, all knew what was 'up'! It was small runs for the metal kids to grab hold of!!! Hell, in the long run I traded more of the damn discs then sold them! Barely pulled even on most! People said 'man OLD METAL must be doing well, lots of CD's coming out'. Nope! Just had saved my money from other things and made just enough to do the next one! Hell, I don't even own a car!!! Hahahaha! Call it bootlegging if that's your way! I see it as limited runs for fans of the music! Don't buy it if you don't want it!

Whenever I bought any of your releases from OLD METAL at HELLION RECORDS in Germany for instance I pay around 35 DM when the usual price is 30 DM. How come your releases are more expensive?

- Probably because with Jurgen and HELLION he knew the presses were like 500 copies! Very collectable and for him as a salesman a bit more profitable! Jurgen was a great supporter and helped me out a lot!!! People in Europe obviously knew these 'cult' bands a lot more then most U.S Metal fans! And hell, $17.50 instead of $15.00 isn't that big of a deal!!!!! Again, if it's too expensive don't buy them, you can just wait to see that some of my stuff will neverrrrrrr see the light of day on CD of any kind! It was neverrrr my intention to make money off these CD releases! Besides Jurgen and a few other distros that bought some copies for cash it was trade, trade, trade! Ever tried to make a zillion dollars off SOUND BARRIER and GRIFFIN CD's? Go try it! It won't happen! (I tried to make money on NIGHTMARE VISIONS and DISGUSTING CD's, equally difficult I assume! HAHA! ED) This is about Metal! Hell, a lot of the time I sent CD's for free to friends and good-natured Metal people! At my shipping cost! I think I charged you a measly $5 a piece for your CD's! True???

Yep, that would be true! But I bought a few at HELLION as well!

- Well you should of asked Mike from DECEASED... to get them for you from me at the $5 'friend' cost!!!! HAHAHAHA! You know a 'store' is going to be wayyyy more then getting them straight from the label!

Wouldn't it be better to at least sell your releases cheap? On many of your releases you are not paying royalties, the packaging is very primitive, the recordings are all there, so how do you explain the facts your CD's are more expensive?

- I just told you! I charged $10 for them postage paid in the states! $12 overseas! If that isn't 'cheap' I don't know what is! Why not run this same question by all the Black Metal bands that you support who record in the woods or crap studio, a bunch of shit noise, black and white artwork, and then charge $30 to the 'underground' saying it is soooooooo 'cult' and 'primitive'!!! And I did pay bands royalties! Either with cash (as in sleepy hollow case) or in CD's (usually 200 copies for the band) out of 500!!!

Hey, in all fairness, which bands are you talking about, who record in the woods or crap studio that I support??? It is true that I don't care as much about the production as long as the music is good. I need to get a kick out of music, and that can be done either through nice ABYSS Productions or ugly 4 track recordings. I don't care as long as the music has the right strength of mind. But mainly SLAYER MAGAZINE is about supporting Metal of extreme aggression. So if you want to look like a panda or a businessman is of no interest to me as long as you perform metal art and have a Die-hard attitude.

- Well MAYHEM and all that crap for starters! That shit is weak!!!!!! And all the 'underground' Black Metal turd bands! Hell, maybe you don't like some or most of these either! That would be great!!!!!!! Hope so!!!

(Well, I guess you haven't got the last issues of SLAYER MAGAZINE, but fuck forest Black Metal. We need Metal fierceness, not idiots running around in the forest with fake swords!!)

By buying your releases we as the consumers are not supporting the bands at all, we are only supporting you. Or have you started to pay royalties?

- I just told you! This is bullshit! If you try and turn this into OLD METAL RECORDS was about the money you are a fucking idiot!!!!!!

Hey, I'm just trying to get the facts here, but I might be an idiot anyway!

- Nah you aren't an idiot but you get my point I think! HAHA! Anyone in the world could of stepped up and put this stuff out! Called the bands on the phone as I did and made deals like I did! For the ones I didn't make 'deals' with 'early on', I realized it wasn't 'cool' to do it and I moved on! You should ask these labels that rip bands off right under their noses! And everyone doesn't know a thing about it! Ask anyyyyyyyyyy band that I worked with at old metal and they will tell you they got taken care of! I hate $$$! And this question is one of the reasons I put the label to 'bed'!!!! Fucking half asses not knowing the 'whole' story!!!! Like you in this case!!!

Yeah, ok then, so it is great we have the chance to communicate then so we can get the facts straight. That's what interviews should be all about, right? Spreading facts.

- Yes indeed, it just upsets me sometimes for people to even consider old metal a 'scam' or 'ugly' record label. Bullshit! This is about the music! Ain't anyone going to say otherwise!

Doing business like this might be very funny, but you are bound to get into trouble aren't you? Please share some of your bad experiences with us; I heard there was a lawsuit going on from SHRAPNEL RECORDS or something?

- WILD DOGS gave me permission! I went with it! I called SHRAPNEL manyyyy times trying to see how they felt! They couldn't be bothered! I got a contract from Matt of the WILD DOGS and that was fine with me! It's his and the bands music! Some guy that released their music almost 20 years ago didn't care anymore! In case you forgot Metal is about the music not the 'ex' greedy record companies!!! So after WILD DOGS came out it was yet 'again' another 'don't know the whole story' deal! Mike Varney tried to tell me there were 10,000 copies of the WILD DOGS CD's out there! HAHAHAHAHA! It was a joke! It all was dropped!!!!

Did you hear that SHRAPNEL had to demolish a lot of their original vinyl to get more storage space? Pretty fucked, huh?

- Yeah and Mike Varney wanted them destroyed because he's a born again Christian that told me that 'none of these records you like will ever see the light of day on CD because of their Devil/Satanic overtones!!!! But as soon as i press a 500 copy CD to push around to friends of the WILD DOGS to honour their existence and great music: 'Hello king, this is Mike Varney, we got to talk about this!! Blah blah blah', it's all about $$$ to these guys!!!!

So, is it safe to say you will do only proper releases in the future and not bootlegs? Which bands do you have proper contracts with?

- Yeah! If you want to still use the word bootleg!!!! I have gotten things on paper just to protect myself! Too many liars out there in the industry! I've signed WYNDIKATOR (formerly ATTACKER) to a 2 record deal. And will be working with a few others that I can't say yet. Too many of my 'past' ideas have been stolen by saying things!!!!

One cool thing is that you will release some extremely anti commercial stuff. Like the PRIME EVIL demos on CD, which means you think with the right mind. When I was heavily involved with releasing albums on head not found I thought, "I don't care if this sells" as long as I have a copy to listen to myself. Not the smartest businesses move but what the fuck. In many cases it seems like you think the same?

- Of course I do! You know me, I think? I could care less what's popular!!! Hell, SOUND BARRIER CD? C'mon, sold maybe 75 of them! Gave the band most of them to give to their old friends from years ago!!!! Lost like $900 on that release! Out of my pocket! When something else sold a little better it made up for it! Got me back to 'even'! PRIME EVIL was and is cult! Love them! Great friends!!!! I got more 'cult' things coming I assure you!

Well, enough of the label. It seems like you have a so-called big mouth and also talk about a lot of thing, why is that you have this urge to bad mouth all in this metal scene? If you think like I do you do it because you love metal so much and take every shitty band as a personal offence?

- Well you know I hate bullshit bands! I don't talk bad about things unless I feel cheated!!! Too many people sit with their mouths shut while the scene decreases in unity and grows on greed! I wont have it! I am not afraid to stand up to anybodyyyyyy anywhere that wants to fuck my band or me over!! And these trendy shit 'here today, gone tomorrow' bands better earn their wings!!! I loveeeeeeeeeeeee Metal so much. But I hate 'fakes' and 'posers' just as much! Hell, in the '80ies all the Metal fanatics would call these people posers and hate them! Now everyone's trying to 'get along' just for the fuck sake of it! Bullshit! Prove your worth! Stop acting the fool! Metal is life! The underground doesn't need 'rock stars'! Grow up and respect Metal music. If not, fuck off!!!

I know you hate a lot of bands. I want to know why you have an aversion to the following:

DESTRUCTION - Because they turned their backs on Metal and 'went away'! Their side bands etc. were trendy crap! Then all of a sudden Thrash is 'big' again! WITCHERY and all this shit! Then 'ta da' - DESTRUCTION is back! Fuck you! Where were you when NIRVANA was the stink of the scene? I'll tell you where. Fucking 'beaten' with your head between your legs! Should have kept on playing like bands like ANVIL and SAXON did!!!!! That's the bands I respect!!!

Did you hear the band HEADHUNTER? That's the band Schmier had during the NIRVANA period I think. At least they did one cool album. But I talked to Schmier on a few occasions and he seems very truthful about what he does.... oh well...

- I hate HEADHUNTER!!!! I have the record, it sucks! Shit!!!! (HEADHUNTER ROCKS! ED)

MAYHEM - Because they suck! The music is shit! Hellhammer is a jerk off and the music is farrrrrrrr removed from what I believe my old friend Euronyomous wanted mayhem to be! They walked around the US like they were KISS! More posers in black leather and corpse paint! Fuck off!

MORBID ANGEL - Hahahahaha! Too long a story! Love Pete and Eric! Don't know ex singer/bass Steve much! Trey Azagoth is the epitome of fucking poser! The guy talks shit about everyone until he gets to their face! Then he hides! He fucking acts so 'high and mighty' and tried his best to berate me and DECEASED... at a gig in N.Y. one time!!!!! That guy is a fag and I wish he were the size of a man so I could kick his fucking teeth into his throat! Fuck him!

We all know about the doubtful sexual preferences of ex vocalist/bassist David Vincent, but is it anything in the rumours of Trey being gay as well?

- He's a fag if not sexually then personally! He treats people like shit! No sense for Metal 'unity'! Backstabbing piece of shit! I know from many first hand experiences! Enough time wasted on this prick!

DISSECTION - Because Jon said many things to me in a phone interview that he later hypocritically did different! His fucking dance/techno whatever band he did outside DISSECTION was gay as shit! After he had told me how gay 'that kind of music' was on the phone with me!!! I don't like liars and people that change direction day after day!!!

The reason why I ask about those bands in particular is that I like them, so...

- Well go ahead and like them, I don't not like you because you like them! And I would think you would like me still for being honest on how I feel about them!!! The fucking scene needs cleansing! Bring back the 'glory' days! Pleaseeee!!!

And get rid of the Gothenburg wanna be Metallers as well!

- See, you Have high feelings on certain things too! Good man! Speak your mind! That's what I respect!!!!

What about Rob Halford? What do you think of his decision to come back to Metal after he declared it 'dead' and did this awful TWO project?

- Rob Halford can fuck off! He is a pile of shit that turned his back on Metal when he realized it was 'dead' for the time. Now he's back!!!! I hate this! I'd rather listen to rap then support fake fuckers who use and abuse Heavy Metal! And I hateeee rap! Hope Halford dies of fucking aids!!!!

Are you the kind of person who rather talks shit about something which is bad instead of praising something which is good? Mention to me one new band you like.

- I will love anyone who respects me as a person! Lots of new bands I love! DEFLESHED! TERROR SQUAD! CORPSE VOMIT (US), RITUAL CARNAGE, GORGUTS (not really new but great band!), etc.!!! Good people who do their music and kick ass at it! I will scream at bands I love in praise! And scream just as loud at bands I hate! It's not 'fun' talking bad about people and bands! I don't get a 'kick' out of it! But sadly it needs to be done! It's great to see many, many people on these message boards starting to point out these fake fuckers! It makes me know that my 'yelling' has a Purpose! As I said twice already... The scene needs to be cleaned of bullshit 'disease' bands!

I find your critical views to be of very healthy nature, it is not good to accept everything. If there is something wrong we need to tell!!!! Personally what I hate most is those stupid bands trying to mix Goth and metal, I hate that pretentious shit. Do you?

- Most of the time! If it's honest I can respect it! If it's fake and phoney I'll say so! I always say what's on my mind, alwayssssssssssssss, some people really respect me for this, and others hate me for this!!!! Sorry, got to be honest to myself! I'm a massiveeeeeeeeee music fan and am sick to death of crap people making crap bands.

What do you think is worst; all those new born again true Metal bands or modern Black Metal? (Please explain why)

- Both! Explaining is easy! They are fakes! Most everyone! Very few I've seen or heard have any real dedication and sincerity! And I am not going to support some 2-year 'fad' band just because it's supposed to be 'Metal'!!! Prove to me you are in 'this' for life!!! Then whether I like your music or not I will 'respect' you for doing what you want! CANNIBAL CORPSE isn't my favourite band. But they still do what CANNIBAL CORPSE does night after night. And year after year! I give them 'respect'!!!!

I heard that some people said you were always talking shit about other bands because of lack of success for DECEASED... How does a statement like that makes you feel?

- HAHAHA! That makes me laugh! DECEASED... has done very well and still goes on strong 16 years later! We do albums whenever we want. Play what we want and are still the same guys we were from day one! People that say crap like you just said are 'reaching'!!! Hell, I go out of my way to not be 'popular'! I could easily 'shut up' and not say anything negative! A lot of bands and people do this! They hold it in and not 'upset' anyone! You know how many booking agents and bands that we have 'confronted' wont 'help' us because we say what we feel???? A bunch!!!! But.... you know how many people in the die-hard and to me 'sincere' underground' look up to and respect us for the same thing??? That's what I get out of this!!!!! Hate me/deceased whatever! Your call! But at Least know the facts before hand! Thanks!

I think it is a stupid thing to say (the statement above), but you deceased... have always been some sort of underdogs. Are you happy with being on that level?

- Yep! Love the underdogs! Will always stay there! Don't want fake peoples support! Go support shit like cradle of filth, etc. We want people who love metal and love talking about and collecting metal! Not some 'puppet' who dances when we tell them too! Weak people are idiots!!!

What keeps you motivated to go on still?

- Dedication to music and our craft! We got in this for life! Not to kill a few years! Nothing can stop us!!! We are real music fans first and foremost!

DECEASED... is on RELAPSE, a label that mostly release shitty stuff in my ears. Are you happy being on RELAPSE?

- They were there at the start! I personally don't care what bands they release! I don't like most of their roster either, and they know this! I told them! The whole band has told them! But who cares? They give us financial capabilities to record records when we need it. They promote our records and they are good friends! Can't ask for much more besides putting our records out ourselves!

In your carrier you only been on relapse, do you think your situation would have been dissimilar if you signed with another label?

- Nope! It isn't the record labels shaping and melding DECEASED... it's us shaping and melding DECEASED... ! We are at our pace!!!! We have lives outside the band and we integrate it all into one big family!!!

In my ears DECEASED... have always released quality material, but it seems like there is no classic album you released. With that I mean there is not really an album everyone claims is the best. Do you have the same impression or is it just I?

- Well I think a lot consider "Fearless Undead Machines" our 'best'! To me every recording has its place! From the early, and sloppy "Luck Of The Corpse" to the latest material! It's just wherever we stand musically at that time! I'd like to think the music is always growing and improving!!!! While staying with what DECEASED... is all about to us! If listeners like it, thanks! If not, we are sorry it's not for you!

FKH

"Fearless Undead Machines" " is a great album, but perhaps to some extent too long, your opinion?

- I think it is 'just right'! ~ It was an epic length Metal frenzy! We needed that long an album to tell the whole' story!

There is also a band called OCTOBER 31 you are in. You guys released your first works when this ever-growing stream of true Metal started. Is it annoying for you to be mixed in with all those?

- Nah! We point them out too! Dummies will be dummies! These magazines of kids putting out 'HAMMERFALL are gods' reviews aren't our crowd! We are for fans of THE RODS, ANVIL, OSTROGOTH, BITCH, CIRITH UNGOL, TYRANT, and BARON ROJO!!!! We are 'lumped' in with these newer bands. But it's OK!!! We know and the 'old timers' know the difference!!!!

Why is OCTOBER 31 different?

- Because we actually play and listen to Heavy Metal! Probably our age too! We are all pretty much older guys who remember when records like "Number of the beast" were released and we've seen and learned so much through the years about Heavy Metal! Hell, I was a kid reading KICK ASS MONTHLY and SLEDGEHAMMER PRESS! HAHAHAHA!

Did it piss you off that IRON SAVIOUR also did the "Headhunter" (KROKUS) cover you did with DECEASED...?

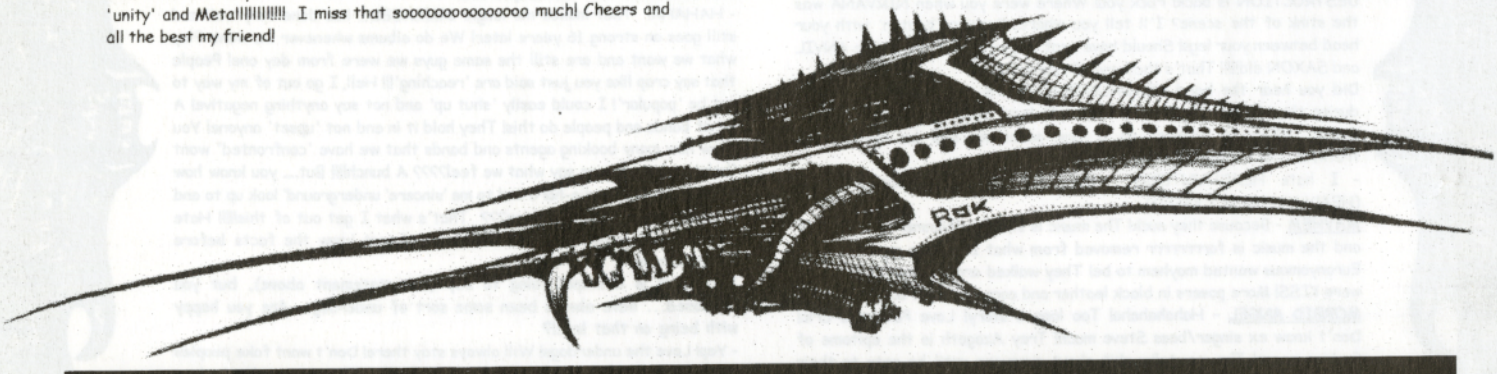
- Nahhhh! I heard their version! HAHAHAHAHA! Total shit! DECEASED... did an OK job! It was mainly for fun live! We love old KROKUS!

You always seem to be very happy with your BLACK LACE jersey shirt; I think your OZ shirt looks much cooler. Killer! Where did you get it???

- A guy bootlegs (there's that word again! HAHAHAHA) all kinds of old school shirts. IRON ANGEL, HALLOWS EVE, EXORCIST, RAZOR, etc. etc. He hooked me up! I got tons of shirts that I bought from bands in the day. But as the years go by you 'outgrow' them HAHAHAHA! I need XL now instead of medium!!!! (Medium is for wimps! ED)

Thanks man....

- Thank you Metalion!!!! I know you are an old schooler. And I think deep down you feel the way I do about a lot that's going on out there! All I want is the Metal to be pure, greed, egos, fakes, need to get away! I just want to come and drink beer and hang out with good people that know what it's like to put on a killer TANK record and get that feeling of 'unity' and Metal!!!!!!!!!!! I miss that sooooooooooooooo much! Cheers and all the best my friend!



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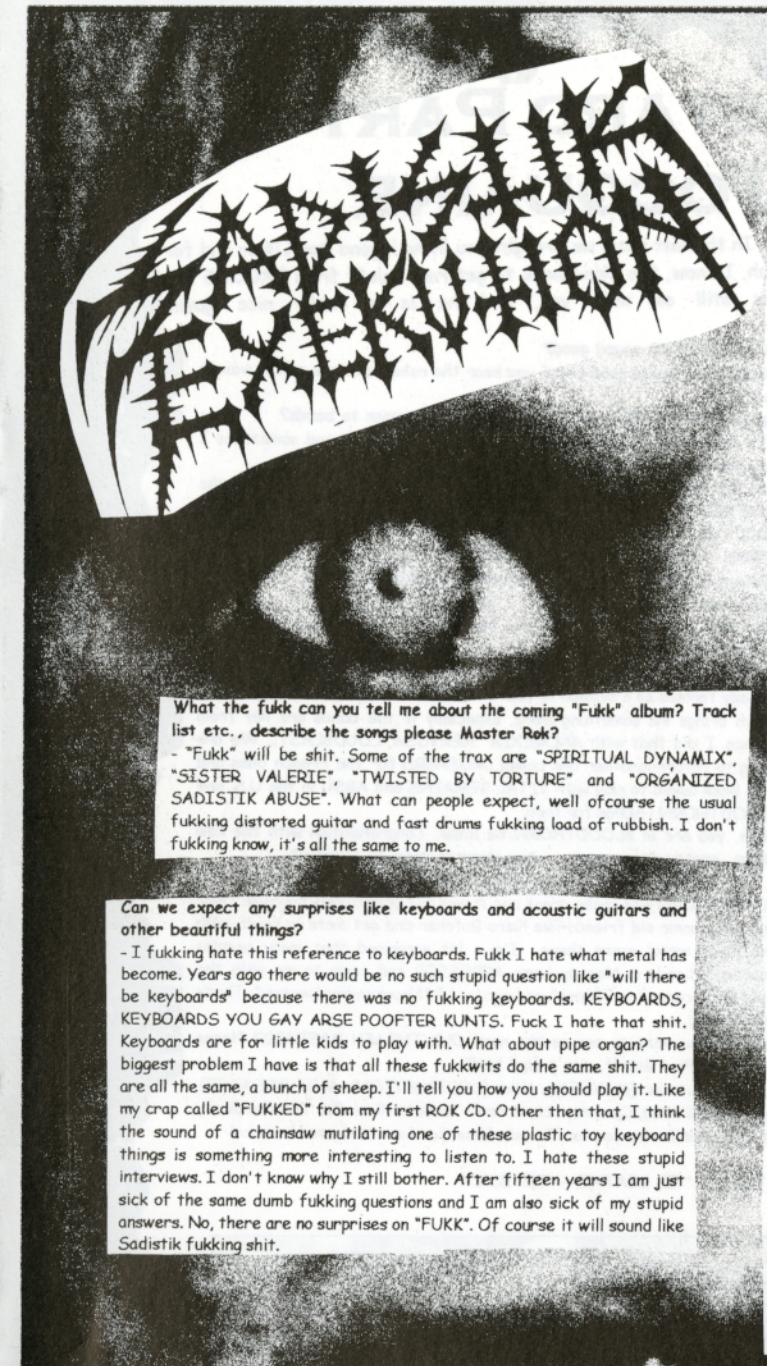


THERE IS NO OTHER OPTION - WHEN THE FUCKING KUNT OF A BASTARD BAND SADISTIK EXEKUTION IS GOING TO RELEASE A NEW FUKKING ALBUM THERE IS NO OTHER OPTION. THERE MUST BE ANOTHER FUKKING INTERVIEW! ENJOY "FUKK" FOR FUKKS SAKE! ROK IN KOMMAND!

What the fukk can you tell me about the coming "Fukk" album? Track list etc., describe the songs please Master Rok?

- "Fukk" will be shit. Some of the trax are "SPIRITUAL DYNAMIX", "SISTER VALERIE", "TWISTED BY TORTURE" and "ORGANIZED SADISTIK ABUSE". What can people expect, well ofcourse the usual fukking distorted guitar and fast drums fukking load of rubbish. I don't fukking know, it's all the same to me.

Can we expect any surprises like keyboards and acoustic guitars and other beautiful things?

- I fukking hate this reference to keyboards. Fukk I hate what metal has become. Years ago there would be no such stupid question like "will there be keyboards" because there was no fukking keyboards. KEYBOARDS, KEYBOARDS YOU GAY ARSE POOFTER KUNTS. Fuck I hate that shit. Keyboards are for little kids to play with. What about pipe organ? The biggest problem I have is that all these fukkwits do the same shit. They are all the same, a bunch of sheep. I'll tell you how you should play it. Like my crap called "FUKKED" from my first ROK CD. Other then that, I think the sound of a chainsaw mutilating one of these plastic toy keyboard things is something more interesting to listen to. I hate these stupid interviews. I don't know why I still bother. After fifteen years I am just sick of the same dumb fukking questions and I am also sick of my stupid answers. No, there are no surprises on "FUKK". Of course it will sound like Sadistik fukking shit.

How come you managed to come up with such a brilliant title as "Fukk" for a fukking album?

- Simply because it must be called "FUKK". There is no other alternative. These bands tend to think up all these stupid titles that mean shit to me. Like, do they think it's important or mystical or intelligent? Who cares? Not me, so I will just call it "FUKK", that's easier and better.

Do you think anyone will buy this fukking album?

- Look, why should I concern myself with these things. What difference does it make? No difference at all, because the fact is that we do what we do. If sales really concerned me I certainly wouldn't be recording in the first place, because our CD sales certainly aren't making us rich people that's for sure. If they do buy it I hope they hate it anyway.

Is Dave Slave (bass) the only member of the band that thinks you will be million sellers?

- Dave Slave.... fukking hell, he is on another planet. I don't know how his brain works. I can tell you that his mind functions in a different way to me and the rest of the world. I honestly don't know what he thinks of SADISTIK EXEKUTION sales figures anymore.

ROK will return in the next issue! I think...

Is it likely that SAD X ever will tour Europe again? Aussie bastards like DESTROYER 666 and GOSPEL OF THE HORNS already toured here quite a bit. Can we yet again witness the SAD X invasion?

- It is starting to become quite unlikely we will ever tour anywhere ever again. Europe is too far away and I don't want to tour anymore. Who are we playing to? The crowds don't understand anything because they are too young and would have never understood us in the first place anyway. I'm not saying we will never appear in Europe at all. Maybe one or two shows, but certainly no tour.

Why the fukk don't you do the "Spiritual Dynamix" album? Will that ever been done? About this album, has any music at all been created for this masterpiece?

- "Spiritual Dynamix" can never be done now. The reason is that if it were to be released the masses would relate it far too closely to the modern trend of gay black metal. The concept of "Spiritual Dynamix" was an all white vinyl album cover with gold trim. We would have our photos showing us dressed all in white wearing gold chains. The music was suppose to be a bit like what these modern wankers call symphonic Black Metal, but with the SADISTIK style of kaotik arrangements and riffing. I know that once again, people would not understand or feel comfortable with our white and gold image, but hey, that's typical of everything we do. Now, the only song of that era is "Spiritual Dynamix", which has been recorded for the "FUKK" CD. When you hear it you will notice the difference to most of our other songs! So the answer is NO. The "Spiritual Dynamix" album is history that will never see the light of day.

Just as you are about to release "Fukk" there is also a re-release of "The Magus" coming, why the fukk do you do that at the same time?

- Well in reality it's not at the same time. The re-release of The Magus will still be a few months prior to the release of "FUKK". Obviously the re-release of "The Magus" is a low priority compared to "FUKK", however it is still important, because "The Magus" shows where we came from and "FUKK" shows our death. Fifteen years of total shit.

I remember when "The Magus" was originally released on vinyl it was also a few copies on green vinyl - how many exist on green vinyl?

- Shit, I think there may have been about fifty or less. I can't quite remember. I haven't seen one for a long time now, but I would like to get my hands on a copy if I could. I think Rev. Kriss Hades own one of these green vinyl's. (I do too! ED)

The CD original release of "The Magus" had some bonus tracks; will those fukking tracks be on the new version of "The Magus"?

- Well yes, but only one of them I think. The arrangements of the trakk order are different and of course the whole thing has been re-mastered in Sydney by the Undertaker, who also did "KAOS" and "FUKK".

This "The Magus" was originally release by a fukking label called VAMPIRE (rumoured to be run by a child molester but we are not getting into that are we?) Did that fukking label release anything else?

- Shit, that was one of those idiots who think they are a record label, but they are really just an idiot, much like this stupid BATTLEGOD PRODUCTIONS rubbish who is really just this fat, pot smoking fool who talks too much shit, phones people all day because he is bored and has no friends. These things are not labels. There are so many of them all over the world and somehow (like us) bands get sucked in by their bullshit. VAMPIRE, BATTLECRAP - whoever, don't believe a word these idiots say. If they can't pay an up front advance upon signing you up, they are full of shit and should be avoided.

What about the people in Australia now, has the attitude changed or is CRADLE OF FILTH and other Black Metal poofterism still big?

- You know, I honestly don't have a clue what they are into these days. I have detached myself from these things. I never venture to places where these modern, young Metal people gather and I have no interest in doing so. As far as I am concerned it's all history now. I don't even listen to any music at all now. The last time I remember playing a CD was about two months ago and it was JUDAS PRIEST. I'm just not interested in any music related things other than the new SADISTIK recording.

Do you plan to unleash a "Fukk" tour in Australia?

- No.

Your solo project ROK is going to release an EP through IRON PEGASUS RECORDS in Germany. What material is to be found on this fukking EP? Any new stuff?

- No. Just old stuff, but one song hasn't been released previously. It's called "UNDER A SOUTHERN SKY". Of course it's only a limited run, nothing spectacular you know.

Why the fukk do you want to do a vinyl EP? Do you care about vinyl?

- Vinyl, hah. This makes me sound like one of those stupid dedicated to shit Metal people who try to collect all the old vinyl and are proud of their stupid picture disks and so on. I don't even care about rubbish like this any more. Really it makes little difference to me in which format my material is released. O.K. I do think the big covers look better, but really, I've got more important things to think about.

I thank you very much for this fukked interview. I hope you are doing well you fukking cunt!

- Look, I am fukking sick of all this stupid interview rubbish. What does it do for me? Are you going to pay me money - NO, does it help my car go faster - NO, so just fukk off with this shit. Fukk off with all this poofter Metal fukking dog turds. I don't want to know about this shit. I hate it.

OLD THRASH BASTARD PART II: ALEX COLIN TOCQUAINE

In our series OLD THRASH BASTARD we have now reached the 2nd part. In the last issue we brought you living legend Dan Lilker and for this issue we come up with Alex from the French band AGRESSOR. Yeah, I know, the plans were to get Paul Baloff from EXODUS but things don't go as intended all the time... I hope Alex is still ok with you, and he is a really nice guy!!!!

NAME: Alex Colin Tocquaine
BIRTH: Mars the 12th 1969
OCCUPATION: Smoking, drinking, fucking, nothing
FAVE BANDS: POSSESSED, MERCYFUL FATE, SLAYER, BATHORY (early years)

First of all Alex, to show you are a old Thrash bastard, mention some under rated Thrash bands of the past.

- Well! There are many bands to mention but let's say: RAZOR, NASTY SAVAGE, ASSASSIN, CORONER, SACRIFICE, DARK ANGEL, and AGENT STEEL. But there was also NECRODEATH, HELLWITCH, SLAUGHTER (CAN), MINOTAUR... (Good call on HELLLWITCH and MINOTAUR! - ED)

Tell us about your earliest experiences with Thrash music? And why did you prefer this brutal style as oppased to traditional Heavy Metal.

- Thrash metal brought more brutality and energy in Metal music that's why I went into it, I was looking for something else I started to get really into Metal around end of the seventies with bands like AC/DC, IRON MAIDEN, MOTORHEAD and before I grown up with DEEP PURPLE, LED ZEPPELIN, BLACK SABBATH because my parents were into such kind of stuff at least for the Metal part and at this time it was extreme music. When Thrash wave came out I felt like Metal bands weakened in their music and many of them turn into more commercial heavy rock and I didn't agree with this because their music lost energy and when the first METALICCA album came out it was like, Ok! This is the way I feel Metal because it was powerful, fast and more brutal than what was made at this time, I had the same feeling the first time I heard MOTORHEAD also. To me, Metal means extreme rock, and the real Metal is brutal part, for instance, listening to MOTORHEAD in the seventies, is the same as METALLICA or SLAYER in the 80's and any Death or Black Metal bands in the 90's.

Did you like METALLICA more than SLAYER? (Trick question!)

- Well, when SLAYER came out I was more into them than METALLICA but I still enjoy both now especially the three first album of each.

When more extreme Death Metal and Grind bands took over after the first Thrash wave back then did you lose interest in bands like SODOM, DESTRUCTION and so on?

- At first, yes because some bands became less brutal in a way because Grind core and Death Metal brought "power grind fast drumming" in their playing with bands like REPULSION, NAPALM DEATH, TERRORIZER, MORBID ANGEL and there was more technique and energy in such bands. According to me, CELTIC FROST went into a more commercial way, SEPULTURA, SODOM, DESTRUCTION and KREATOR lost a bit of energy after their 3rd album that's why I turned to more extreme bands. Now, with more distances, I enjoy listening to any kind of Metal at least for the main bands as they're belonging to a certain period if you catch what I mean.

Numerous older Metal brothers have this tendency of losing their hair, it seems like you don't have this problem? You must be happy about that....

- Yes at least.

Have you ever thought of cutting your hair?

- Not really, but who knows what will happen in the future. Maybe I'll tattoo my skull if I shave like Kerry King, but I'm an old Thrash bastard! And I guess it's too late now!!!

I remember from the visits I paid you back in the '80ies that practically all your family members used to be into Metal, is that still the same situation?

- My sister is still listening to Metal but she has stopped her band WITCHES a year ago. My mother, she's still going to gigs, not long ago, she went to see MORBID ANGEL, KING DIAMOND and many more, I think she have seen almost all Metal bands since the seventies and with almost all formations. This is crazy.

OK, how old were you when you first formed your band?

- I've founded AGRESSOR in '86 but I started to search musicians to form a metal band around '84 and I was fifteen, I played some gigs in my area with a old school heavy metal bands and on 85 I've founded a band called KATACLISM which was a kind of Speed Metal. I wanted to do something more brutal but the other members weren't interested. They were more into old Heavy Metal and MERCYFUL FATE/METALLICA for the newest part. At this period I was more interested in BATHORY, HELLHAMMER and VENOM.

Did KATACLISM sound good?

- Well, to us it was good but if you hear the rehearsal tape now it wasn't that good.

Do you like the '80ies bands better when it comes to bands?

- It depends how I feel. Sometimes I enjoy old stuff and sometimes I play only new bands and sometimes I'm listening to nothing.

For the most musical parts of your life you been connected to the band AGRESSOR? Have you ever been sick of AGRESSOR and thought FUCK this, I'm starting a new band!!

- Wow! Tough question, to be honest, both yes and no. I was to much involved in AGRESSOR and I was working hard on it but the result after some years wasn't so good and I gave up with AGRESSOR in '96 and reformed the band in '99. I was fed up with line up changes and the record company wasn't working on us. I think if restarted another band, maybe it won't be Metal at all. And I prefer now to play in other bands already formed as a session to tour or record. I can play different stuff, which brings me something more, especially if the bands are not from France. I did that with ANOREXIA NERVOSA, LOUDBLAST... We are going to reform another one called CRUSHERS for the French ones and I've been asked to play with VITAL REMAINS and ABSU in the U.S. and BLOODTHORN i Norge for faen.

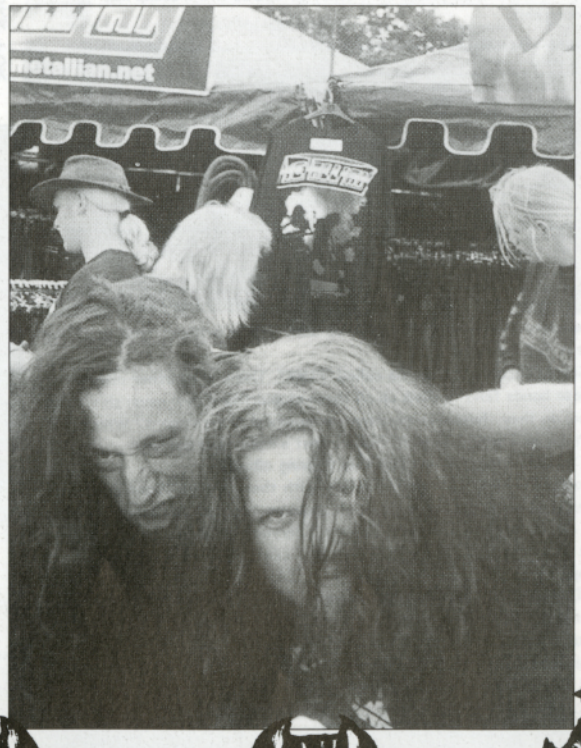
Yeah, you are in BLOODTHORN we know. Congratulation with the new album, pretty damn good.... Any plans to move to Norway?

- Not yet but I'd really enjoy Norway, this experience with BLOODTHORN was really great and it was the opportunity to come their and meet some old friends like Nero Butcher and get mote in touch with the Black metal scene there. I'm a bit surprised that many peoples especially bands in Norway knew AGRESSOR and came to me with the Split LP "Licensed to Thrash" and our 1st LP "Neverending Destiny". That's really great.

Who do you want to see as the next OLD THRASH BASTARD? Please don't say Paul Baloff, can't find him!!!

- Necro Butcher (MAYHEM), Mike (DESTRUCTION), Mille (KREATOR), Snake (VOIVOD), Quorthon but I don't think he'll be OK! There's plenty of Bastards like me you can Thrash. Skaal for faen i helvete Nordman!

THRASH 'TIL DEATH!!! ---'TIL BLACK



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ABSU-EQUIMANTHORN-BLOOD STORM

THE OCCULT TRIUMVIRATE

P = Proscriptor E = Equitant M = Mezzadurus

Our first assignment to Curriculum Mortis was to get some info from the ABSU camp. This is what he come up with. Please see above to indicate who answered the questions.

Bands, distributors, magazines, tape traders etc. are making the "underground Metal" scene active each nights - and designers too! Some of them are quite famous, like Necrolord, C. Moyen, C. Spajzdel, and also Rok & Rev.Kriss Hades, Conscicide, Dead and - Equitant. Equitant, you have drawn the logos of BLACK FUNERAL, ZEMIAL, PROSCRIPTOR, ABSU & EQUIMANTHORN. Equitant, could you give us a short list of logos you drawn? Are you still active? Who has drawn the 2nd ABSU logo?

E - The second ABSU logo [the latest one on "Tara"] I did before we released "The Sun Of Tiphareth" and the it was revised by myself and Michael Riddick in 2000, altered with computer, adding effects and new swords/axes. I think the new one looks much better! Its stronger and more eye catching. Other logos I've done in the past - ahhh its been years. The last one I did was for LIMBONIC ART [Norway], others would be AGATUS, DIVINE EVE, PRIDE, AZAZEL'S TORCH, new EQUITANT logo, DOLMEN, NECROTIC, CRIMSON RELIC, GALATEA, ISSACHAR, VERGELMER,.. I've also done artwork for magazines and bands too....
I don't do much these days with it - only for ABSU.

Lately some bands (not the smallest: MARDUK and IMMORTAL) have left OSMOSE. Do you know why? Have you had the same intention? Are you completely satisfied with the deal you've signed with them for ABSU?

P- I know the intentions why bands like IMMORTAL and MARDUK have left the OSMOSE enterprise, but it is their problem and not ABSU's whatsoever. We are 100% completely satisfied with OSMOSE and always will be as long as we are associated with them. I wish the distribution was a bit better over in the United States, but that is my country's fucking fault. I am so sick and tired of low intellect levels here in the USA, as well as torpid business transactions.

Could you present us your new album "Tara" ?

P - Tara , which can be defined as "the exalted, imperial hill in County Meath, Ireland where High Kings and tyrants once reigned in Celtic mythology, is the third and final development of a trilogy for ABSU. Metaphysically and conceptually continuing from The Third Storm of Cythraul and In The Eyes of Ioldanach, it is our intent to recover three "stones of destiny:" Tara (highest Primum Mobile), Cythraul (median Primum Mobile), and Vitriol (lowest/internal Primum Mobile). After psychologically visiting such realms, we can successfully complete our battle and alchemical schemes to reach three thrones on top of this hill - Tara.
Tara is not only an album of "mythological occult metal," but also an exhibition of Pagan antiquity. Our determination is to balance the juxtaposition between tyranny, puissance, Gnosticism, and magic(k), as the album is presented in a chronicled assembly dividing this exhibition into two phases: Ioldanach's Pedagogy and The Cythraul Klan's Scrutiny. Certain goals and objectives are finally accomplished with Tara, through practices of our ancestral attributes (Scottish and Irish) and channeling divisions of pure magic(k) (Qabbalah) within our minds and souls. This is our interpretation of what Tara is all about.
"Ioldanach's Pedagogy" - Ioldanach, the All-craftsman of every god in Celtic legends, was also known as the "god of wisdom." His thoughts and teachings are what made us triumphantly courageous throughout this first phase of the album, implementing weaponry skills and frenzy-like war tactics.
"The Cythraul Klan's Scrutiny" - Ioldanach's thoughts and teachings are also what made us victorious throughout this second phases as well. However, it was our responsibility to interpret our own battle and alchemical schemes in this second phase. We feel there is a constant exchange of souls taking place between three various realms: Tara, Cythraul, and Vitriol. Death in these realms conveys our inner selves and spirits to the apex of Tara, as well to the chasm of our glorious underworld: the Cythraul - the Apzu.
This is my definitive explanation of the album's synopsis.

In SLAYER #10 you said "I haven't read Mein Kampf, but I'm very familiar with Hitler's knowledge". Have you read the N. Goodrick Clarke's thesis "The occult roots of Nazism"? Also, which are the best books you ever read ?

P - No, I am not too familiar with this text you talk about concerning the works of N. Goodrick Clarke. Some of my favourite books that have been interested me lately would have to be "Sepher Yetzirah" by W. Wynn Westcott, "Dry Guillotine" Robert Smetzer, "Diary of a Mad Playwright," James Kirkwood, and especially books like "Summa Spes," "Alexandra," The Soul of the Desert," "Book Four," and "The Book of Lies" by Dr. Crowley.

Have you planned to do an European tour in the way to promote your new CD?

P - Hopefully we will be able to tour European throughout October and November of this year with ENSLAVED, IMPALED NAZARENE, ARKHON INFAUSTUS, HOUWITSER, and ANOREXIA NERVOSA in support of "Tara."

For the 1st EQUIMANTHORN album, Emperor Vorskaath from ZEMIAL wrote some lyrics. Are you still in contact with him? Did he write some lyrics in the 2nd one? What do you think of the ZEMIAL's return?

P - Yes, I am still in contact with him, but I don't believe Equitant is any more. I think the return of ZEMIAL is fucking outstanding and a very important factor to the extreme Metal undersphere. ZEMIAL has always been one of my all-time favourite and Emperor Vorskaath is one of my closest comrades, even we don't have the opportunity to converse all that much.

Apart the video clip '94 "Infinite & Profane Thrones", have you performed other videos? I like this video and its occult atmosphere. Why and how did you release it? What message is it suppose to spread?

P - Last year, we released an ABSU compilation video titled "In The Visions of Ioldanach" for OSMOSE, which features a newer video for a track taken from the M-CD "In The Eyes of Ioldanach" ("Manannan") and three videos taken from our debut album "Barathrum: V.I.T.R.I.O.L." ("An Involution of Thorns," "Fantasizing to the Third of the Pagan Vision," and "An Evolution of Horns") These videos spread hate, as well as magic(k), mythology, and mysticism.

Proscriptor, you're involved in many bands, like MELECHESH, JUDAS ISCARIOT, ROLLER, HEAVEN'S DEVILS, DEVIL GOAT, PROSCRIPTOR...(and maybe NECROVORE?) How do you manage your time to work in all those projects?

P - Let me tell you what happened because I feel it is most important to explain the pause in between the last two releases, which will answer your question to why I was involved in so many projects. After May of 1997, ABSU went on tour in Mexico in the summer of 1997 and that was the last time ABSU has executed a live performance. While we were writing the material for the "In The Eyes of Ioldánach" mini-disque in late 1997, I had also formed a blasphemous Southern rock band called HEAVEN'S DEVILS (with one complete album written), and recorded second albums for PROSCRIPTOR ("The Serpentine Has Risen") and EQUIMANTHORN ("Lectionum Antiquarum"). March of 1998 witnessed the recording of the "...Ioldánach" MCD and suddenly, I saw the Cythraul Klan of ABSU slowly start to deteriorate. Once the M-CD was released in the autumn later that year, each of us became rather hateful and cruel with one another, but we had to continue and keep on writing new songs. It was also challenging because a lot of drinking and drug use was occurring as well (...and it still is of course). By this time, Equitant had completely disappeared for months and no one knew where is existence was. Yes that is correct: Equitant was missing from Earth! It was definitely an enigma, a mystery to say the very least, but Shaftiel and I had to continue (which was difficult at the time). After months had passed, he finally showed up to our rehearsal dungeon and we conducted a very thorough, yet serious meeting about his future in ABSU. Afterwards with positive notions, it was if we had reformed the band again and everything was back to normal after 8 months had passed without his existence in the band. So, 1999 rolls around and things seem to be more prosperous than before. We were beginning to compose and arrange the new songs for "Tara," we filmed the "In The Visions of Ioldánach" video, recorded some cover songs for various tribute albums, and overall begin to work with each other's energy more fluently. However, I could tell that something was still missing within the myth and magic(k) behind our auras and personalities. Since we were "burned out" on each other at the time, I felt like I had to participate in other bands besides ABSU (to keep my stamina flowing). So eventually, I joined up with a band here in Dallas called ROLLER, which are like Budweiser's answer to Motorhead, Rose Tattoo, and the Swedish Gehennah: beer and biker metal. After I got bored with them telling me how to play my own fucking drums (they liked drums patterns very simple, which is something I can barely handle), I teamed up with both JUDAS ISCARIOT and MELECHESH. I played a Black Metal festival with Akhenaten here in Texas in the latter portion 1999, and in February 2000, I went to Holland to record the second opus with Melechesh, which is called "Djinn." So now, here I am again with the new releases of ABSU's "Tara" and MELECHESH's "Djinn." I am also working on new albums by these two bands (ABSU - "Absu" and MELECHESH - "Sphynx"), as well as other projects I am involved with such as PROSCRIPTOR, EQUIMANTHORN, EQUITANT, HEAVEN'S DEVILS, and OZARK EMPIRE. It is so fucking amazing how magic(k) can be drugged into my existence and how I have seen the past and present of ABSU's being. For some reason, I can only predict one more album from ABSU and that is all. I could be wrong, but this is how I honestly feel. Please tell me that I am wrong. Let us move on. In reference to "In the Eyes of Ioldánach," the first thing I can tell about this MCD is that it was big mistake for ABSU (according to OSMSE PODUCTIONS). The only reason why I say this is because we should have waited a little longer and made it into a full-length album, but we had no idea at the time. We decided since we had four songs completely written in 1997, why not go ahead and just release a M-CD since we never had in the past. In end results, the consumer of ABSU's music saw that it was almost the same price as a full-length album and it did not want to purchase it. It is a shame because it is some of our best, yet most progressive material up to date excluding the music on "Tara." Well, what else can I tell you about it? It is a prolonged continuation from "The Third Storm of Cythraul;" however, those four songs are the prediction and the future of what our most preferred Overseer sees in our past lives of immortality, who actually is Ioldánach. "Tara" is the continuation from this M-CD. Three stories and three warriors are what we represent magically and mythically. Now, I am only really involved with ABSU, MELECHESH, and PROSCRIPTOR at the moment. I wish I could implement more time to HEAVEN'S DEVILS, but I just cannot at this particular moment.

Hey Proscriptor, we both interviewed Jon Deplachett of NECROVORE for DESCENT MAGAZINE then for SLAYER MAGAZINE. What do you think of NECROVORE's return? Have you had the opportunity (I would say the 'privilege') to hear the DePlachett's work lately? Are you supposed to play drums in this cult band?

P - NECROVORE were once gods and still are in the sheer essence my glass-cased heart. I was supposed to execute drum alchemy for them, I think...but...?

Judging by the question you asked to Jon DePlachett's interview (for SLAYER MAGAZINE), your Metal knowledge seem to be quite big, as you mentioned: ROTTING CORPSE, SYRANAX, MORBID SCREAM etc., few people reminds these old bands. I would be curious to know which were your '80ies favourites?

P - I would have to say the mentioned bands above and also NECROVORE, BLOOD FEAST, ACID, CROSSFIRE, WITCHKILLER, HOLOCAUSTO, TORMENTOR, VULCANO, SATAN, HOLY TERROR, SLAYER, KKREATOR, MASSACRA, AGRESSOR, DEVASTATION, SODOM, SACRIFICE, SEPULTURA's "Morbid Visions" LP, SARCOFAGO, MINOTAUR, DARKNESS, SDI, POISON, MEKONG DELTA, VVOIVOD, BULLDOZER, and the list goes on and on.

I would like to know also what happened to those '90ies bands: ENTRAPMENT, HAVOHEJ, GOAT LORD, V.O.N., MESSE NOIR, NEPENTHE, BLACK LORD, PROFANATICA, WINDS OF THE BLACK MOUNTAIN, maybe you heard some rumours about them? And what about the guy (Rimmon?) who released the 'zine BLACK MONTANAS OF SEPTENTRIO?

P - Bands I know that are still in full existence or have remerged to the flames of Earth are MESSE NOIR and PROFANATICA I believe. Rimmon is from the Netherlands and ran the notorious label 'SO IT IS DONE' and not that magazine; that was operated by Equitant and myself during 1992 and early 1993.

ABSUS and EQUIMANTHORN are sounding really different. The 2nd one could be sorted in the 'ambient' category. Apart Metal, which kind of music are you listening to?

P - Thrash, some Black Metal, and mainly progressive stuff from the '70ies and hard rock from this epoch as well.

E - I listen to anything I find interesting or I like. These days I'm into Electronic music a lot, acts like DIE FORM, KRAFTWERK, SVEN VATH, LAIBACH, etc.....

Why have you chosen this rosicrucian iconography for the cover of the 1st EQUIMANTHORN CD cover? Who's the horned man inside the booklet ?

P - The cover and his presence fits the channelling of souls and immortality best fits our notions back then.

From where your nicknames are coming from? And in which circumstance have you chosen them? Mezzadurus is coming from the Stygian's tales I suppose? Why the Proscriptor and Equitant names?

P - Proscriptor is "To denounce or condemn; prohibit; interdict. A Proscriptor is an aggressor or one who banishes; one who proscribes the names of the dead in a requiem. McGovern is the Scottish surname of Proscriptor's regiment.

E - The name Equitant was given to me by Proscriptor, and it was only used at first with the old EQUIMANTHORN project. Then later taken for ABSU as well. Equitant = Overlapping, as a leaf whose base embraces the leaf next within or above it... To ride on horse back; horsemanship or knighthood..

M - The title of Mezzadurus is a reptilian storm wizard constructed within the Outer Gateways in the code of the Ophidian/Set-Thyphon currents. Mezzadurus represents the formula influxuation of the triple fire tongue within the Dragon star. A teacher of the Draconian current, A Qliphothic necromancer of Sirian sorceries, and the crowned intelligence of the Atlantean, Yuggothian, Zothyrian systems announcing the arise of the celestial Arachnean. Mezzadurus is the double current of my cosmic self among the magikal universe.

Why a so long delay between the 1st EQUIMANTHORN "Nindinugga nimshimshargal entillar" CD 94 & the 2nd "Lectionium antiquarum" CD '99?

P - The reason behind this long delay was due to some negotiation problems I was having with Panos of UNISOUND at that time period. But then again, who was not having problems with him. He was a very difficult, yet tedious individual to work with.

Mezzadurus, you're linked with ABSU for a long time now. Could we consider you as a full-time ABSU member? Or is it just a side band for you, beside BLOOD STORM?

M - I've had the great pleasure of joining up with the Celtic tyrants of Cythraul for a few tours from '95 to '97 and it was all a tremendous experience and mystical might to perform with ABSU on stage!!! I've never worked with better Metallic Metal magicians before until fate put me with my great comrades ABSU! I will always be there for ABSU should they summon my assistance again and we are very good friends, but do to our geographical positioning and my career with BLOOD STORM right now I think this remains as sessioning position only if they need help with tours. I was always a session player for them from the start. But I'll always fell apart of ABSU in me always!

You've released your 2nd BLOOD STORM album last year. (See SLAYER 15 for further details - ED) Its title is "Pestilence From The Dragon Star". Those who appreciate the 1st one won't be disappointed I guess. Could you describe it? Could you introduce the others members: Nexarulhu, Telor Toraxo (who already was the drummer for the 1st album!) and Axarruth ? From where those Atlantean warriors are coming from?

- Well, basically the "Pestilence From The Dragon Star" is 100% pure uncompromising Black Deathrashing sonic torment!!! The concept of this release plunges into the sentient tunnels of the mystical Qliphoth, more importantly, the pylon of the daathian void is crossing into the 27th pestilent entity known as Parfaxitas. It is the chaos of the magician rejuvenating the virual entities of the KMO A'AJEI fevers and diseases outside the circle of time! Yes, Teloc Coraxo is present as always! Axarcuth is from here in Philadelphia and has been playing live with BLOOD STORM since 1997. Nexarulhu only played 3 shows with us and when we recorded the "Pestilence..." album, he was not prepared and his bass tracks all had to be re-done by Axarcuth and myself. He was fired and replaced by Deyaxulgaat on bass.

You also have released a split LP with a Swedish band named MORIA. Why a split LP? Under which label? Why with this Swedish band? Could you give us some info about this release?

- It was released by HELLFLAME PRODUCTIONS (Italy) last year. It became a split LP because of the expensive cost for Nicola to release the BLOOD STORM and MORIA as two separate "7 EP's. I think that it was an excellent job done by Nicola and HELLFLAME PRODUCTIONS! T-shirts were also made of the album cover as well. Ask HELLFLAME about that stuff. We did a studio cover of EXCITER's "War Is Hell" and two live songs of a good date sound board here in Philadelphia. I want to do another special LP again with HELLFLAME! Time will tell though.

I salute you now! Have you any question to ask me or to Metalion? The last word is for you!

P - I am the eternal fire of konx om pax; grazzi!!!

E - Hailz to readers of mighty SLAYER! hails to Metalion!! Ride the winds of mayhem!

M - I send to you Curriculum Mortis and to you Metalion my sirian howls of Qliphothic necromancy and pure transplutonic Metal salutes!!! Thank you so very much for your great support on BLOOD STORM and my comrades ABSU!!! Keep the Metal torch burning high and forever! ZOS KIA CULTUS! Look out for the new BLOOD STORM full length release entitled "Ancient Wriath Of KU" out on METAL WAR PRODUCTIONS. www.METALWARPROD.com. For BLOOD STORM correspondence write to :

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By Curriculum Mortis

Bloodthorn

As a few of you might recall I wasn't that thrilled by the last pus of this band. Anyway, some times things change for the better. Many things have changed in the BLOODTHORN camp which the third album "Under The Sign Of Terror" is a great evidence of. BLOODTHORN is now performing a much more powerful and deathly style. I thought I should get hold of bass slaughter Harald to give me a quick rundown of the BLOODTHORN events going on.

First of all, we need to be on the safe side - are you into Metal?

- Yup, I'm Metal Thrashin' Mad!

Cool, what kind of Metal are you into?

- Mostly Thrash and Death Metal, but Metal in most variations and styles are fine with me. The best of the genre came out of the (mid-) eighties with all the classic Thrash Metal bands and the early Death Metal acts, bands who blow away 90% percent of all the shit that's coming out today. I mean, which contemporary albums can match "Reign in Blood" or "Seven Churches", "Pleasure to Kill", "Altars of Madness", "Morbid Tales" or even "Kill 'em All" - not many. Of course there are some killer bands terrorizing the world with their insane Metal even today, bands that have no regards for current trends and doesn't care for what's the latest fashion; USURPER, ABHORRENCE, GOSPEL OF THE HORNS, NECROPHAGIA, VOMITORY, NIFELHEIM, CADAVER, PENTACLE and MORTEM are some prime examples of this. So there are always some good albums coming out, even now, but there's a lot of crap also. Fuck all that techno infested shit and the fucking rap-"metal" that poisons the scene, fuck those baggy pants assholes.

All right, there is this band you are involved in called BLOODTHORN. As some of you might re-call I didn't really happen to love your last album. What do you think of it now in retrospect?

- There are a couple of good songs, the two last ones, but the rest of the material doesn't hold up. People who don't understand extreme metal can't possibly write it and there were some people in the band who in the end turned out not to have a clue about Death or Black Metal and unfortunately they ended up writing a good part of that album. The atmosphere in the band wasn't good and as you know, eventually after this release, most of the band members where dismissed for obvious reasons. The album was hastily made in less than four months and didn't really give us the time to think things through. When it came out there was a lot of it I didn't' like, the songs simply weren't hard enough and also the synths where far too prominent and too high in the mix and the sounds (of the synth) where crap. The first mix was slightly better, but Season weren't happy with the sound so they demanded a remix and the synths on that are much higher than on the original one. The guitars where pushed in the background, which was fucking idiotic cause the synth was supposed to back up, not lead. We don't blame the studio guys in any way, and actually it seems we want to work with Studio Mega again in the future. The only ones we can really blame is ourselves for letting it all happen, we did one big mistake and that can't be corrected, but it's a finished chapter for us now. As you understand very well know, you're not the only one who didn't like that album (even though it got a lot of very good reviews), and we're not doing any songs from it live anymore. We do a couple from "In the Shadow of Your Black Wings", and the rest is new shit.

Now you progressed towards a more Death Metal like style, it is good for my ears but how do you explain your musical progression? One thing is that you got rid of the female singer, but is there more to it?

- Getting rid of the girl is just one factor; "Under the Reign of Terror" is like a rebirth for us - BLOODTHORN Mk. II or something. Over half the line-up is changed, different people are writing music and playing it, and the whole atmosphere in the band is totally different. "Onwards into Battle" left us pretty much fed up with that sound and style and it wasn't at all what we're after. That this album, "Under the Reign of Terror", would sound completely different was clear at an early point, but exactly how it'd turn out we never really thought about. We just started writing and suddenly new material was just pouring out. As you say it's more Death Metal now, it's a helluva' lot more brutal and much more aggressive than anything we've done. We're very pleased with the new songs and I can tell you, this is only the beginning. The next album will rape your soul and rip you to shreds.

You almost got rid of the keyboards as well, but there are still some keyboard things left, can we assume by the next album they are all gone?

- I don't mind keyboards in metal as long as they're used "properly", which usually means sparsely. I mean, the way Morbid Angel use them only makes already great riffs even bigger sounding, enhancing the atmosphere of a certain part. That's what we wanted on this album also, to let the keys lie as a backdrop for some parts. At this point I can't however see any keyboards on our next album. The songs we've been working on so far doesn't leave any room for that, but who knows, there might come a riff or two that could fit some keyboards. I wouldn't bet on it though, but if so happens Tom or Alex will do it I guess so there will definitely not be any more keyboard players in BLOODTHORN; not as session and definitely not as a permanent member. Whatever happens on the next album one thing is certain, and that is we won't use keyboard in live situations any more.

The opening track of your new album is called "Deathmachine", hmmmmm that rings a bell... Why did you call a track that when it was also the name of the MYRKSKOG album??

- Actually that song was the first one we wrote for the album, both music and lyrics. We'd been playing it for quite a while when we heard about the MYRKSKOG album with that title coming out. For a little while we changed the title, but as we liked the original one better we decided to stick with that no matter what. There are tons of bands coming out with similar titles, both for songs, albums and even the names of the bands themselves so what the fuck. By the way, I just got a copy of the new CIANIDE LP and there's a song on that one called "Deathmachine" too. So we're not the only ones who thought it was a cool title, HA HA!

Record labels are a funny thing; you have been previously involved in the French SEASON OF MIST and now signed to RED STREAM. RED STREAM might not be the biggest label in the world either so is there any differences at all?

- Well, it's a bit early to say what the difference as far as sales and promotion goes as the album is just out. But we've been with RED STREAM for over a year now and so far they have been more than great. I mean, the first thing they did when we signed was to press t-shirts, and they gave us total control of the design of that, just like they've done with everything else. No interference with the composing, with the layout of the CD booklet and LP cover or the new shirts. They let us do whatever we want, not that they can't or won't do it or help out but if we wish to fully control those things they let us. There are new shirts for the album coming out as soon as we've done the design for those, and the LP is going to print any day now so everything's great. SEASON wouldn't let us touch anything, they didn't care if we had ideas for design or lay-out, we didn't even get to see the photos for the album or the layout it self before we got the finished product after it's release! As you say RED STREAM is a small label, but we have a lot of faith in Patrick and the RED STREAM crew and the vibe is very good between the label and the band. We know they're working their asses off every day to get better distribution around the world and they're really pushing the album, but only time can tell. So far we're totally satisfied with their work.

Are you upset with SEASON OF MIST? Or are you in good contact with them now, as they have to deal with your back catalogue?

- I guess we're not so much upset with SEASON OF MIST, as they are with us, we're only glad to be working with some one else. Someone who even though they are a smaller label works in a more professional way and doesn't try to screw you every time you look away. When we left the label, Mica went ballistic even though the contract was over and we held no obligations towards them. He started spreading a lot of shit and lies about us and he fucked up some possible record deals for us also. I know that for sure as I saw an email he had sent (to someone who shall remain nameless). What the mail basically said was "I fucked up some deals for BLOODTHORN by talking shit about them to labels that were interested in signing them". After this he was angry with us talking bad about him to some people and got even more upset. Did he expect us to praise him and his label after fucking up everything for us? We have no contact with them anymore and no matter what we don't expect to get anything from them that's for sure. We haven't had sales statements in a year and a half and haven't received any royalties of any kind for almost two years.

Many labels try to make a selling point out of everything, but still RED STREAM did not mention that Alex (AGRESSOR) is playing with you, why not?

- First of all, AGRESSOR doesn't seem to have the same cult status in the states as it has over here, so simply I think RED STREAM wasn't aware of the influence they had on the European scene in the late eighties. Even though they knew I don't think it would've been something they would've blown up, it somehow doesn't seem to be their style of working. Patrick is a very down to earth guy, doesn't care about rock stars and is not kissing anyone's ass. He's been and still is a musician himself and is just a honest working dude running a label, releasing stuff he likes - much like you do with Head Not Found. He's not mister hotshot label boss thinking he's so cool, like a certain other person.

The sound on the new album is a bit different on certain tracks, how do you explain that, or is it just me?

- It's not just you; it's all drugs you are taking also. But yes, the sound does differ on some of the tracks as the album actually consists of two different mixing sessions. Actually all the songs differ a bit from each other, but the sound is always raw and brutal which was the most important aspect for us as far as the production went. We faced a lot of problems with the studio and the guy working there, so I guess the album would've sounded a bit different if everything had run smoothly. Some things definitely would've been done different. The sound is quite much as we wanted it though; ugly ...just like your momma.

Alex is French and you even recorded the album in France. So why on earth did you record in a country where they hardly speak English?

- The guy who owned the studio was a long time friend of Alex and he had more or less become our regular sound engineer. The studio was brand new, and he was telling us how great it was and blah, blah, blah. Then he gave us a good deal so went for that, but when we got down there it was a fucking mess. The construction work on the studio wasn't even finished and all the equipment was outside in this big industrial hall in which the studio was built, collecting dust, being totally neglected. Of course when it was set up, a couple of days after we should've started the recording, it started breaking down, half a day into the recording. It must have been the most plagued and chaotic recording session ever. It was a fucking nightmare and we were almost going nuts down there. We had to get fucking dead drunk and stoned out of our minds each night just to get away from it all. Now we're just glad it's over and that we made it out of there with a finished album - even if all the problems caused a huge delay of the release.

I hear a lot of SLAYER like leads here and there on the album, is that Alex in action?

- Yeah, Alex does all the leads on the album and while the rest of us had some inputs and suggestions he gets all the credits for those. He's a great guitarist and has definitely added a lot to our sound with his style and skill. All of us are big SLAYER fans, (I mean who isn't?), so if you hear some SLAYER influence that just might be right, even if it wasn't a conscious thing from our side.

On the new album we find the MAYHEM cover "Deathcrush" featuring Necro Butcher himself. How did you feel about him taking your space on this track? Actually, it do sound like more than one bass is playing so you might be on it after all, or?

- No, there's just one bass track so Necro is doing that by himself. Isn't it weird how such a small guy can make so much noise? I don't mind at all him playing on it instead of me - I think it's great! He wrote most of the song as well as the lyrics for "Deathcrush" so it's great to have him playing on our version it and I think he enjoyed doing it as well. Actually it's quite "funny", cause I always wanted us to do a cover of "Deathcrush" and now we're finally doing that, but I'm not playing! At least I got to play it during the rehearsals. I fucking love that song. As you also know, Necro played the song with us (or the rest of the guys that is) at the Inferno festival in April. It sounded a bit rough - but it was pure fucking mayhemic Metal aggression!

Impiety

Some bands deserve some more support than others. Singapore underground Metal warriors IMPIETY is certainly one of them. What can I say? Certainly one of most killer bands in this genre of flesh ripping ancient Blackened devastating Metal! It took me a bloody long time to get this interview back from Mr. Schytain but I do believe it was worth the wait!!

IMPIETY is already a pretty old band and even if the sound has advanced over the years you still stick faithfully to your roots.. How come IMPIETY never wimped out and remained a brutal godlike act?

- It would well be the same as you O' Mighty Metalion..! Take a good look at yourself in the mirror and ask yourself the same thing! It makes me wonder as well how come you remain so godlike and never wimped out! As you know, it's simply the morbid passion and dedication to the christfucking art of Metalized desecration that IMPIETY has remained proudly the same from day one! Needless to say, we are driven by extreme hate and as long as mercury is pumping fiercely from our heart through our arteries and veins, you can well expect us never to extinguish the flame! wimping out will be the last fucking thing we will ever do! And never, not until Christendom has fallen to it's knees and left pulverized into a smouldering pile of ashes!! Despite our age and having withstood the blasphemies in life over time, I would say that everything that lies at present and ahead just remains challenging as ever! And as you know, only the Strongest prevails with blazing might and prowess!! Ah yes, the mentors will forever remain gods to us...and without them, IMPIETY would never stormed into existence!

IMPIETY keeps the trademark of what good Metal is all about, aggression, hate, good fucking songs. Why do you think so many so called 'Metal' bands have chosen to go other ways, like using more and more keyboard passages and female vocals. What is wrong with people you think?

- I think all these melodick metallers need to be sodomized by an elephant to come to their senses a bit! I for one am not least bothered about these entire keyboard loving' boy bands and sickening 'Mariah Carey' female voice-overs! I used to get real fed-up whenever I pick up a new metal release and find littered with excessive keyboards! All these smart ass folkloric shit bands who display the use of traditional flutes, violin-crap only but contaminate the underworld with their own vile genre of so-called 'black-metal'. It's a disease beyond our control. Beyond mine for one thing! A total fuck off to these circus acts, they all but suck!!

I think that bands like NIFELHEIM and IMPIETY is real fucking Black Metal and brings forth the true feeling of what Black Metal is all about, and it pisses me off that the term Black Metal has been infected by so many crap bands and crap releases. Is there any hope you think?

- It's all these fucking labels that are spreading the disease!! They sign crap, package crap, add beautiful and meaningless art to crap and make money from crap! The best part is that the CRAP SELLS!!! Fuck labels that deal with trendy bands!! They only pollute and suffocate today's scene with shit!! And as we all know 80% of commercial metal magazines are fucking hypocrites! Just because a label takes an ad out, the artist/band gets top reviews and ratings. Magazines are the biggest cock sucking ball carriers of today's metal scene! What is the world coming to?? There is no unity but just hypocrisy and a shitload of bullshit behind the mirror! Its' money or nothing!! I rather not buy most of these commercial metal magazines because most of the times I can expect to see utter bullshit in it! Only handful magazines are reliable and dead honest! And now, speaking about Black Metal, all I can say is that the essence of it all has changed since the late 80s, early '90ies and now this new millennium. The term "Black Metal" has been desecrated over time! It's good that bands have progressed but to me, innovation together with progression can be bad and disastrous altogether! I am an old deranged mutherfucking terrorist of the underworld and I like Black/Death/Thrash/Speed Metal to be played exactly like when it commemorated back in the mid '80ies!!!

You have released quite a few releases over the years and the "Skullfucking Armageddon" album is your 2nd album, but as the "Asateerul Awaaleen" album was limited to 4000 copies do you see "Skullfucking Armageddon" as your real first release?

- "Asateerul Awaleen" no doubt is the debut album from IMPIETY. The CD digipaks that were issued should stay limited to 4000 units because that was what was pressed and that was what that sold. And in future, you will never see that gem repressed! Perhaps only on limited 12" and limited Picture disc (on IRON PEGASUS RECORDS soon!). Since you like GREEN COLOURED VINYL'S, we'll try to it in this colour, just for you! HAHA. I don't believe in repress or re-editions. If it's out, it's out and that's it! If anyone doesn't have it, then just too bad. If you are a death-defying vinyl craving maniac like me, then you will still have the chance to get it in future! "Skullfucking Armageddon" was pressed 2500units in limited digi pak format, and DRAKKAR PRODUCTIONS did another 3000 units for the Euro Edition of it. So as you can see, everything thus far has been limited!!

The name "Skullfucking Armageddon" reminds a bit of "Pure Fucking Armageddon" by MAYHEM, does that certain demo tape influence you?

- It does sound a little like it. That however, was a brilliant demo tape! But no, that title didn't come to mind when I chose "Skullfucking Armageddon". Did you choose SLAYER MAGAZINE because you secretly admire Kerry King from SLAYER for his good looks? HAHA! Come on, spill the beans bro'! HAHA. (Well, the name of the magazine originates from the movie "THE SLAYER" but it is no secret I always worshipped old SLAYER!!! So a natural choice!!! And besides, Tom is far more attractive than Jeff! HAHA!! ED)

I feel that your material is really fucking strong now and really has a big potential, are you interested in getting bigger or don't you care about such things?

- Hell yeah, stronger than ever!! The new nightmarish apokalyptik deathstorms we've created will prove to you where we stand! We are NOT interested in getting bigger. Progression is progression but IMPIETY will always remain as the infernal warlords of the underworld! It is the underground that we thrive in and live for!! We shall always proudly dwell in the lowest and filthiest pit of hell!!

What strikes me with "Skullfucking Armageddon" is the killer production, it must have been hard to achieve such a fantastic sound, or..

- To us, the production is raw-as-fuck, grimly unpolished and infernal - that's how we wanted "Skullfucking Armageddon' to sound!! We spent close to 100 hours in the studio recording and boozing throughout the entire process! It's tough to work with studios here, most of the producers/sound engineers know nothing about extreme black/death metal but we had a good sound-engineer who was capable enough to work with us and with his help, I co-produced the entire album.

Even if the band is brutal to the bone there is also some melodic things in there, do you agree? I think especially in a track like "Torment In Fire" from the "Skullfucking Armageddon" album that is evident.(melodic might not be the right word, but powerful chorus etc.)

- "Torment in Fire" is inspired by the late '80ies old German Death/Thrash scene!! I was fucking pissed drunk when I wrote this one, so I guess it's best appreciated with a beer in one hand and raising your fist with devil's horns in another! I decided to end the album with something monumental and killer at the same time!! It does have a powerful chorus, and the violent riffs are catchy at some level. But evidently, "Torment in Fire" is a fucking krazy and killer anthem!

I remember in 1993 when you released the "Salve The Goat" "7 EP on SHIVARDASHANA and it had some harsh comments about the Norwegian Black Metal scene. What was that all about and how do you feel about this now?

- Here goes another long story about how Little Red Riding Hood got sodomized and fist-fucked by the Big Bad Wolf!! Back in '92 when Mortiss was in EMPEROR and they just got their demo "Wrath of the Tyrant" out I wrote to them and asked if we could trade demos. Mortiss who was handling the mail agreed and we did an exchange of demos. But when Mortiss sent us their demo tape, he included some very amusing remarks calling us "Niggers" and that "Asian/Niggers SHOULD NOT be playing Black Metal at all" and he also remarked "All shall bow before my elite race". We were fucking enraged and wrote back in retaliation with a shit load of profanity! Mortiss was just a fucking 17 year old fuckhead at that time and were amazed at what a cunt he was! That statement was proudly displayed on the back of the "Salve the Goat.." 7" EP as a clear warning that we do not take racial comments and verbal stupidity lightly!! It was targeted at those entire new generation hillbilly Black Metallers who talk too much about race and who only sing about their stupid Aryan heritage! If ever we bump into this fucking Pinnochio Tranny Morepiss, I won't hesitate or think twice about punching his nose in!! And the real one! Not the fake one, which I will gladly set fire with my hellfire zippo lighter!! Anyway, that was then, but like I said, we won't take shit lightly and especially if it comes from these stupid forest wankers and farm boys who think they came into existence before BATHORY or SODOM and who think they know so much about Black Metal. In short, FUCK THEM ALL!!

You have one release called "Funeralight." which was released on cassette only, would you be interested in releasing this on CD or vinyl if some label was interested?

- That won't be released. The tape format was only 2500, released and sold only sold in Malaysia by an independent label. I barely managed to get 70-80copies out to a handful of maniacs elsewhere on this planet back then. However, we did release one kult track from this M-LP recording "Dragon Oath Diabolus" as a split 7"EP together with the godz PROFANATICA back in December '99. The 7" was limited to 400 on blood red and 100 on yellow vinyl, the release was done by Jim Stanic, SAMHAIN RECORDS (New Jersey, USA) who has been in constant contact with us for nearly 10 fucking years!

Over the years there has been some interesting bands from Singapore, like ABHORER and so on. But there never have really been any big bands from Singapore, why do you think? And will IMPIETY change this you think?

- It was our dream to have toured or played gigs with the mighty ABHORER but sadly, they called it a day (RIP-1996). There are a couple of good bands in Singapore and some who have existed for a long time now such as EIBON, VRYKOLAKAS, RUDRA, DOXOMEDON but their progression is a bit slow. Still, they're good black/death metal bands worth bleeding your ears to! As for the new bands, they come and go so fast I don't even know what's going on. Some have been excellent while others were just hobby bands (crap, in short). Bands like ABATTORY, BUNUH, have had killer offerings! Well, it's up to the new generation of bestial Metalheadz here to continue to battle hard and keep the faith!!

You have done a very smart thing by licensing "Skullfucking Armageddon" on vinyl to IRON PEGASUS, tell me how this worked out?

- Well I personally know Costa for 6-7years now, way before he started the label IRON PEGASUS and I know he always wanted to do IMPIETY on vinyl so it wasn't difficult achieving this when he started his excellent label! The bands he has released exclusive on vinyl are of his choice and I can say that he has really great taste when it comes to wicked hellfuckin' Metal!! Costa's a true infernal vinyl overlord of the Metal underground and IMPIETY grimly salutes him!! In future, we'll still work with IRON PEGASUS, not to spoil any surprises yet, but you'll see for yourself. IRON PEGASUS RECORDS released 400 LP's of "Skullfucking Armageddon" on Black Vinyl, 100 LP's in kult Grey Vinyl and 100 picture discs with picture sleeve!

Tell me also about the gigs you played in Europe last year, did you lose a lot of money coming here? IMPIETY must be a devastating live band I feel.

- Aaarrrrrrrrrgggghhhh...we miss the mass destruction of stages across old Europe! We did two euro assaults (tours) last year. The first one was a 4 date "Skullfucking Armageddon Tour 2000" and the second one was 15 dates over 6 countries "Skullfucking Euro Battlestorms Tour 2000". All in all both tours were savage beyond belief!! We lost a lot of money during the first euro hellslaughter and got ripped off DM 2000 during the second tour from the tour manager who was working for DRAKKAR PRODUCTIONS. All in all, we still like to thank Cyril and the entire crew of DRAKKAR PRODUCTIONS for kind and krazy hospitality! All the IMPIETY kommanders had a truly killer time desecrating and destroying stages and especially meeting really dedicated die-hard and true-as-fuck goat worshipping maniacs and steel shredding demons!!

Also "Skullfucking Armageddon" was licensed to DRAKKAR for a re-release, how come you signed with them for just this release and not any upcoming stuff?

- The licensed Euro version was done on our own accord because we had a big disagreement with DIES IRAE PRODUCTIONS. They promised us a shit load of things initially and ended up lying all the time. We were patient, but to an extent and will not be taken for a ride as fools! The first pressing of "Skullfucking Armageddon" (digipak) sold out mid 1999. And a re-pressed was promised but DIES IRAE took their time and also delayed our royalty payments for more than a year! We got fed up and went ahead and got DRAKKAR to do the "Skullfucking Armageddon" for the Euro edition. Only Razali of DIE IRAE is the one we sincerely trust and talk to, not the other two stupid cunts who tried to make fools out of us! Cyril is a great demon and really wanted IMPIETY on his label but we couldn't reach an agreement for the new album so we had to negotiate and sign to another label.

You actually ended up on OSMOSE which many might see as weird; tell me about the reasoning for signing to this label?

- Well, it's really a strange tale to tell you but back in early '99 when the "Skullfucking Armageddon" CD was first released, I sent Herve (OSMOSE PRODUCTIONS) a copy and asked if we could work together. Herve, told me on the phone to wait 'til 2001, as their release schedule was full. I was under the impression that it was just a kind gesture that meant that we were good but not good enough to be signed by OSMOSE. So, we forgot all about it and we worked our way talking to other great potential labels. Only in December 2000 did I get an email from Herve asking if we were ready to be signed for 3 full-length albums. I thought Herve was joking but then I realised that he was not and he had kept his word from two years ago!! Damn, so it was true! We negotiated the deal well to our satisfaction and finally signed the agreement early 2001.

Do you think they will be able to make IMPIETY 'big' here in Europe?

- As long as we're bigger than Metalion of Slayer Magazine, I'll be very happy! HAHA! Truth is, that as long as our savage bred of barbaric Metal reaches the right terrorists and demons, which are most important! Not how big we are. That is not why we're here today in the first place! We will never be big. We never want to be!!! We will prove our critics wrong...you'll see...the next album shall unveil the answers!

Tell me about the upcoming album? Will you still record it in Singapore?

- We thought of recording it in your backyard at your very own ARNE BABB RECORDING STUDIO but OSMOSE PRODUCTIONS said it won't be a good idea because you might steal our equipment, sell it and use the money to buy more second hand rare and kult metal LP'es!! HAHA! Actually the new album will be recorded in Germany at Stage One Studios. We will work with Andy Classen as producer. It shall tear the face of humanity with 8 blasphemic barbaric war anthems!! We'll also include two cover bonuses from the mighty BLASPHEMY and SEXTRASH!!!

Last blasphemies?

- Bombastic Christfucking Nuklear Hailz for the interview mighty Metalion!! Stay psychotic, perverted, muscular and beautiful! Make sure you come back from WACKEN in one piece and not in a body-bag! haha..Oh yeah, now what about that MORBID 'green coloured' "December Moon" Vinyl? TO ALL THOSE CUNTS WHO DON'T KNOW WHO WE ARE BY NOW - WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO FUCK OFF AND FUCKING DIE!!!!!

DEKAPITATOR

Interview with Matt Hellfiend of DEKAPITATOR. Done by Labelskum. Labelskum says thanks to Metalion for allowing me to contribute to the great SLAYER MAGAZINE!! THE BEST METAL MAGAZINE OF ALL TIME!!

What were the reasons for forming DEKAPITATOR in the first place? Obviously not originality.

- The idea for DEKAPITATOR had been around for quite a while before we actually acted on it. In about 1994 we were friends with some guys in a band called IN EXTREMIS, and they played mainstream Thrash like old METALLICA and MEGADETH. Our drummer, Andy, and I went to one of their shows and we started talking about how fun it would be to do something in the vein of the good old days, since at that time we were listening to mostly VENOM, BATHORY, MESSIAH, EXORCIST, KREATOR, etc. Then, many beers later after kicking around a couple of ideas (and poseurs) that didn't really go anywhere, we were hanging out with our bassist Bulldoze and he was pissed because the hardcore band he had been in had just broken up. We decided to start something with him, because we had been friends with him for a long time, since '91 or so. By 1997, we had started practicing and writing songs very sporadically. It was not very serious at all at first. It was around this time we started hearing of bands like GUILLOTINE, BEWITCHED, PENTACLE, USURPER, INFERNO, etc. who were also doing albums in the classic Thrash vein, some good (USURPER, PENTACLE, DESASTER, GUILLOTINE etc.) and some not (INFERNO, DESEKRATOR, etc.). That really encouraged us. We were just writing songs that we liked, and didn't really consider that anyone would actually get into the stuff we were doing. Then we did the split 7" with NUNSLAUGHTER in 1998, and things got a bit more serious from there.

Do you guys fit into the "retro" thrash genre, or do you think you offer something more?

- Well, our sound is definitely rooted in the eighties style of Thrash, but when I think of "Retro-Thrash", I think of bands like Inferno, who just steal their riffs outright and make no attempt to create anything on their own. I guess that we are a throwback, but not completely derivative. I think that we're the only band from the Bay Area doing this kind of style, all the other bands seem to be from Scandinavia or Europe, so that will give our sound something different, considering the Thrash legacy of the Bay. We all grew up on bands like VIOLENCE, EXODUS, early DEATH ANGEL, old TESTAMENT, HEXX, EPIDEMIC, KAOS, etc. so the "Bay Area Crunch" is just as big an influence as the great European stuff like KREATOR, SODOM, HOLY MOSES, CORONER, CELTIC FROST, NECRODEATH, etc.

The "We Will Destroy, You Will Obey" album was released by Elden and Debbie from BLACKMETAL.COM. How did you hook up with them? How come RELAPSE didn't put it out, since they basically own your ass?

- Andy and I are under contract to RELAPSE with our other band, EXHUMED, but they decided to pass on putting out the DEKAPITATOR album, because it doesn't fit in at all with what they're doing, which is more geared towards crossover/noisecore and of course Brutal Death Metal and Grindcore. We had known Elden and Debbie because they always hooked us up with great deals on vinyl; in fact they sold me my copy of NME's classic "Unholy Death" album. The cassette dub that I had of it was worn through and through, so that was a great thing, indeed! They wanted to start putting out records and no one else had really come forward and asked us about it, so we figured, "why not?"

Will you work with those guys again? If not what would be the IDEAL labels for you to work with both in the US and Europe for DEKAPITATOR?

- We most likely won't work with them again. There have been a few frustrating things that happened around the release, so it's better to move on to a different label. I'm definitely grateful that they released the album and put it out on vinyl as well, but I think overall, we need to move to a new label for the next album. I don't really know what the ideal label would be. Maybe COMBAT RECORDS? MEGAFORCE? We don't have any definite plans right now, but there are some labels I really like, like IRON PEGASUS, LISTENABLE, maybe even HAMMERHEART, since they released the killer HYPNOSIA album. I really don't know.

How would you describe the sound of the first album? Obviously it's Thrash, but can you be more specific?

- It's probably an unhealthy mixture of Bay Area and German Thrash. The biggest single influence is probably EXODUS, "Bonded By Blood". We describe it as "Headsplitting Metal", which will also probably be a DEKAPITATOR song in the near future.

Is it you that wrote the material for the first album, or was it a collaboration between all the members? Who are the current and former members?

- I actually wrote all the music and lyrics for the album. The whole band helps arrange the songs, though. That may change on the next album, with more contributions from the other guys, but we'll see how it goes. The core of the band is myself, Atomic Andy Maniac on drums, and Dan Bulldoze on bass. Our old rhythm guitarist, Wes Blackwulf, is now playing with us in another project, and has been replaced by Sean Bloodbath on guitar.

The first album has already been out for a long time now, what's going with new stuff? Will it go in different directions musically at all?

- We have about 5 new songs written and in various stages of completion. I know that it's been a really long time, but unfortunately we have all been busy with a lot of touring and recording with EXHUMED, as well as working full time and bills, school, etc. It is already going in a bit of a different direction, with more complex riff patterns and arrangements. There are a few more "mosh" sections in the new stuff, like slow SLAYER type sections that leave no head unbanged. It's definitely still total Thrash, but slightly more mean and technical. Sean Bloodbath has brought a new aspect to the band as well, where we can now do harmonized guitar solos, etc. There will definitely be no ballads however.

You told me a while back that the next record might deal with some sort of concept. Can you elaborate a little?

- I read a short story you wrote that was very entertaining, so the idea of a concept record seems like an obvious choice. It will be a lot more focused than the first album, dealing with less occult and satanic stuff, but it won't be a "story" or anything. The next album will deal with the world after a nuclear war, the harsh "kill or be killed" type of reality that will follow. Some of the songs we have written so far, "Caught in the Crosshairs", "No Turning Back", "Earthscorcher", and "Screams From the Holocaust". All deal with this theme. We will be describing different incidents in the same kind of world throughout the songs, but there will be no underlying story, only glimpses into the harshest and most violent reality imaginable.

Press reactions to your sort of music, from harsh criticism within the "mainstream" Metal press (cuz there's no violins and shit), to a lot of support from true magazines like SLAYER, TALES OF THE MACABRE, and other more underground 'zines, has been varied. Is this what you have noticed? Do you think that this kind of music is seen negatively by today's Metal scene, and will it ever get big again like it was?

- I don't think that Thrash will ever attain the level of popularity that it had in the mid to late eighties. It just doesn't seem possible. Although, with the success of bands like the Haunted, it shows that there this kind of music can still appeal to a lot of people in the underground scene, which is great. Some magazines just dismiss any band like us, without even listening to the music, but I don't really give a fuck, because we don't play for anyone but ourselves. Fuck critics! But, when I see great reviews for the band coming from people that I really respect, like Costa from TALES OF THE MACABRE, Metalion from SLAYER MAGAZINE, Frank Stover, Tom Wren from METAL NIGHTMARE, etc. it makes me think that we are definitely doing something right. Even TERRORIZER gave our split 7" a great review, so I can't really complain at all about reaction to the album.

What is the song "Release the Dogs" about?

- It's just about turning loose the dogs of war to crush and consume everything in their path. It's about turning on your masters and enslavers and tearing down the gates of heaven to let total chaos reign throughout the universe. It's also about using any means of carnage, from guns and ammunition, to swords and axes to mutilate and annihilate. So it's not really about Dogs, in an animal sense- just the dogs of war.

Do you have it in mind to write songs a specific way for DEKAPITATOR in regards to arrangements? Like Verse/Chorus/Verse/Chorus/Solo/Chorus or anything like that?

- We try to keep the arrangements direct and in your face. I doubt that we'll ever have a nine-minute DEKAPITATOR song. The arrangement that you mentioned is the classic Heavy Metal arrangement, and most of our songs fall into that structure. It's really the best way to build a song, as long as your riffs are good enough, it almost always works! Our new songs have more developed bridge and solo sections, but the overall formula is still similar.

What are the best Thrash records of all time in your educated opinion? What are the most underrated?

- Hmm. That's hard to narrow it down to just a few but here goes- EXODUS "Bonded by Blood", KREATOR "Pleasure to Kill", SODOM "Persecution Mania", POSSESSED "Seven Churches", TESTAMENT "The Legacy", SLAYER "Hell Awaits", METALLICA "Ride the Lightning", VOIVOD "Dimension Hatross", RAZOR "Violent Restitution", WHIPLASH "Power and Pain", DARK ANGEL "Darkness Descends", VIO-LENCE "Eternal Nightmare", MEGADETH "Peace Sells. But Who's Buying", DESTRUCTION "Infernal Overkill", CELTIC FROST "Morbid Tales", SEPULTURA "Beneath the Remains", EXORCIST "Nightmare Theatre", PROTECTOR "Misanthropy", BATHORY "Under the Sign of the Black Mark", and probably way too many more for me to think of right now. Some of the most underrated- NUM SKULL "Ritually Abused", DEVASTATION "Idolatry", HEXX "Quest for Sanity", HOBBS ANGEL OF DEATH "Hobbs Angel of Death", MESSIAH "Hymns to Abremelin", PESTILENCE "Malleus Maleficarum", SACRIFICE "Torment in Fire", SLAUGHTER "Strappado", NME "Unholy Death", NECRODEATH "Into the Macabre", AGGRESSION "The Full Treatment", EPIDEMIC "The Truth of What Will Be", DEATHROW "Riders of Doom", and again, probably a million that I can't think of right now.

You play in another band called EXHUMED who are on RELAPSE RECORDS. A lot of underground Thrashers (especially in Europe) get turned off to American bands with total GORE images, but what they might not know is that while EXHUMED is very grinding Death Metal, there's a big SODOM and Thrash influence that hardly any American "Goregrind" bands have. Care to elaborate?

- EXHUME is more of a culmination of Death Metal, Grindcore, and Thrash. We have been around since 1991, and have a lot of influences from all those genres. We have been covering bands like POSSESSED, SODOM, and SARCOFAGO for six years or more now. Even EXHUMED is essentially an "eighties" band- if you consider that bands like CARCASS, REPULSION, NIHILIST, AUTOPSY, SIEGE, ELECTRO HIPPIES, EXTREME NOISE TERROR, SOB, and PESTILENCE all reached their peak in the mid or late eighties. These are all of the main influences for EXHUMED, so to me all of those styles (Thrash, Grind, Death) are concurrent and part of the same thing and can't really be totally separated.

In addition to DEKAPITATOR and EXHUMED, you are also in another band called CADAVERIZER that features the legendary Kam Lee in the line-up, tell us more.

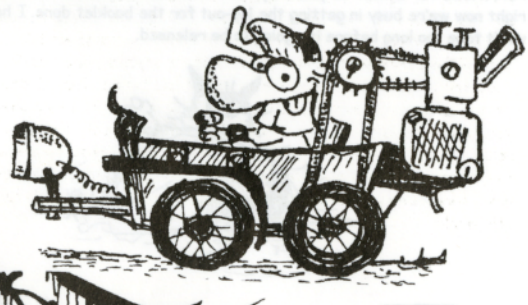
- CADAVERIZER is the band that has been taking up the most time for us lately, it's an old-school Death Metal band, basically. CADAVERIZER is to early DEATH, MASSACRE, AUTOPSY, and NECROVORE, as DEKAPITATOR is to EXODUS and KREATOR. We basically have created the band that we would want to hear Kam Lee fronting. Kam will be writing most of the lyrics and of course handling the vocals. We have half of our album ready, and a ton of ideas for new songs. It is very raw and primitive- very ugly!

Is there any other project that you are in or that you are thinking of doing in addition to all these bands?

- I am trying to get something going with a couple of guys around here that will be a more modern Grindcore type of thing, but it has been difficult to coordinate. I don't want to say too much beyond that right now, but it will hopefully come together fully in the fall.

What about touring and playing shows with DEKAPITATOR? What's the deal there? Are reactions good when you play live?

- We have only played in California so far, mostly in the Bay Area, since that's where we're at, but we played at the Metal Festival in San Bernadino (outside LA) as well. Usually the reactions are pretty damn good, even if there are only a handful of die-hard maniacs, that's all we need to get totally into it. I think that DEKAPITATOR is definitely a live band, as it should be, and that's where our music comes across the best. We would love to tour once we get an album with some proper promotion, etc behind it. I really hope that it will happen.



You and I have this expression that we sometimes use to describe bands and albums, "Timeless Cultness". Explain to the dear SLAYER readers exactly what this means to you!

- When something (or someone) is "Timeless Cultness" it just cuts through all the bullshit in the Metal scene and stands out as something that no one can fuck with. It's also something that kids that have just gotten into Metal a year or two ago would probably not even know of. A lot of the people I meet while touring with EXHUMED are totally into Brutal Death Metal, but have never even heard stuff like "In the Sign of Evil" or "Satanic Rites". That boggles my mind! These albums are "Timeless Cultness" to the extreme! When you go to a show and you see someone with a completely rare shirt like a NECRONOMICON shirt or a CARCASS "Fleshripping Sonic Torment" shirt- that person is "Timeless Cultness". Then there are activities that are at the core of being a Metalhead, like getting totally drunk while listening to Thrash Metal- that's "Timeless Cultness" as well. Doing an interview for SLAYER MAGAZINE - which has been around since '85- that's "Timeless Cultness" right there! (Ironically the expression Timeless Cultness is a variation on the name of a hidden track on NIRVANA's "Nevermind" album, "Endless Timeless" - L)

Does DEKAPITATOR make special efforts to be ugly, or does it happen naturally? I'm talking about your appearance and not your music by the way.

- Why do you think we play this aggressive and hateful music? Because we're ugly as sin!

Any final comments?

- Thanks for the interview Labelskum, and thanks to Metalion for giving us a few pages in the legendary SLAYER MAGAZINE. Everyone says this, but it truly is an honour to appear in this magazine! Hail Arne Babb and Nuclear War! Release the fucking dogs!

A couple of issues ago we did a reall in-depth and everlasting interview with Wannes of PENTACLE. That interview was performed by Mr. Cronis, so since there was on time to feature them again I thought we might as well let Cronis interview them again also!

A lot of things has happened with PENTACLE in the last years (and since the last SLAYER interview, feel free to inform us about the matters..

- Last years were indeed very busy for us. We had to search for a new drummer as our former drummer Marc didn't want to do any gigs anymore. There was very little response concerning this. There were only two guys responding to the adds we had placed. One of them was a Hardcore guy which wasn't a suitable solution and the other one, Robert, became our drummer. We worked with Robert to get him the live-set learned, but at the same time the band rehearsed with Marc for the recordings of "Ancient Death". Marc really wanted to do this record as this was/is our anniversary release and as he was the original drummer he definately was entitled to do this job. We wouldn't wanted somebody else to record this release with us. Marc got the honours and at the same time he helped us keeping the band on track. We're still very thankful he helped us out! Robert's first gig was with IMPIETY in Belgium which went pretty decent. The second one in Bladel with GOSPEL OF THE HORNS was awesome. Killer show and a killer audience made this gig to a classic PENTACLE gig. It has been a heavy job to integrate Robert in the band, because he wasn't used to our style. He was more into slower material, but he really did his best and can play the songs now in the true PENTACLE fashion. In the meanwhile we did lots of gigs with bands like CENTURIAN, WARHAMMER, DESASTER, HADES ALMIGHTY, ABSORBED and more. We also did a small tour with DESASTER and PULVERIZER through Holland and Germany to promote our "Ancient Death" release. This was truely a great event for all the bands. We did some of the best shows in our career. During the tour we were dropped by our label DAMNATION, because of some personal differences, but as they are going to quit end of August this year we had to search for a new label anyway. No news about the search for a new label. "Ancient Death" is out now, so we thought it's better to let this release do its job and in the meanwhile we have a look for a new label.

It's been some time now since "Ancient Death" got released, how do you feel about it? Has it grown with time or are you feeling tired of it by now?

- I still enjoy this album very much and listen to it very frequently. Although it has been recorded last year it still feels "fresh" to me when listening to it. The combination of the 3 new ones, an old track of our '93 "Winds of the Fall" demo and the MANTAS/DEATH covers definately work out in my opinion. It's heavy, raw with a fitting production. The co-vocals with Mr. Warslut are still a highlight. It contains our most extreme track ever, "Immolated in Flames" which just rages! I'm still proud because of the lay-out. Unfortunally the backside has been printed much too dark, but the whole artwork, booklet and the rest are great! It's nothing spectacular, but with this release we tried to modernise our lay-out a bit, because I felt the look of the CD-version of "...Rides the Moonstorm" didn't had the potential it could have had. Except for the usual fuck-up I'm very proud how this CD looks. It more "high-tech" (if you can say something like that), but it's still 100% PENTACLE.

Needless to say "Legion of Doom" is one of DEATH's greatest songs. Do you feel relieved to finally gotten it down on plastic after all this time?

- Definately! It was a longtime wish for me personally to record this song (as well as "Witch of Hell") for PENTACLE and both songs shred in our versions! Not that they weren't killer in their original versions, but now these songs got at least a decent production. Of course we'll never be able to outdo the original recordings, because of that very special atmosphere those demos do have, but that was never our intention. We just wanted to give both songs the proper production they deserved. We didn't change the songs very much. Some additional parts and other solos, but that's it. Nothing like what we did with the DESASTER and POSSESSED tracks. Both "Legion of Doom" and "Witch of Hell" are classic tracks because of their simplicity and aggression and we didn't wanted to change this. Just as what we did with HELLHAMMER's "The Reaper" on "The Fifth Moon" PD. Nobody wants to hear a technical version of such simple, but killer songs, especially not those people who know the originals! Unfortunally right at the moment everybody seems to cover DEATH songs which seems to be the case because of Chuck's illness. Here in Holland several benefits were/are being held for him to cover the treatments he's getting in the hospital. So it's very "hot" to play some DEATH covers. I hope nobody thinks that's the reason we did those songs. At least you should know we had this idea much earlier, eh?

Correct me if I'm wrong but wasn't at one time Kam Lee thought of helping you out with the MANTAS/DEATH songs? If so, how come he didn't?

- You're right. I wrote him a letter to get his "Go!" for doing the covers. He already knew PENTACLE very well , which was a major suprise to me, and was very enthousiastic about our intentions. He also asked me if he could contribute some backing vocals on both songs which seemed a great idea to me. So I wrote hime back it would be an honour to me if the originator of both tracks could do some session-work for PENTACLE. I also asked how we could work this out as Kam wanted to get a DAT tape so that he could record his vocals in a studio. From that time I didn't get any response anymore. I don't know what happened, but the same thing happened with THANATOS who were doing "Corpsegrinder". Kam first wanted to help them as well, but here it didn't work either. Lack of time or someting. At least they got some kind of reason while we were left in the dark. Oh well, I mentioned him in my thanklist, because of the kind words and his permission to let us do those songs. I wonder if Chuck would have given us the opportunity to record those songs... At least Kam did.

"Prophet of Perdition" got a very POSSESSED/PENTAGRAM-ish feel to it. A one-night stand or is PENTACLE moving into a slightly new direction musically?

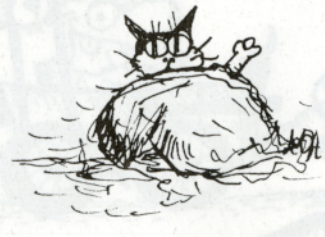
- Well Cronis, if you listen very carefully to songs like "Raised by Night's Chaos", "Black at Heart", "Baptism in a Fiery Void" or "Adoring an Endless Dawn" one can notice the very obvious POSSESSED riffing in these songs. It's not that we stole riffs from them, but merely wrote parts as POSSESSED would have done, so the POSSESSED influence was already there. Nothing new for us. Even in our early days we used to have them as an influence. But I definately see this as a big compliment! I don't think we're heading in new direction, except for not having any FROST influences on this record. That would be a right observation. Fuckin' great you mentioned PENTAGRAM as an influence. Killer band! Have you got their CD? Get it!

Still no lyrics. Again too personal or weird stuff to print down?

- It's because of several reasons, but the most important is there wasn't any space left for them in the booklet. For me it was more important to get the lay-out done the way you can see in the booklet. Unfortunally, this ruled out the lyrics. No, they aren't too strange or whatever. Together with the words for the song "Soul's Blood" from the "10 with DESASTER these lyrics are the most straight thing I've done for PENTACLE in many years. Very direct and hard hitting. Both "Prophet of Perdition" and "Immolated in Flames" are dealing with the subject of war. "Prophet.." is a bit more abstract, while "Immolated..." is dealing with my favourite writer, Sven Hassel. The subject of "Walking..." are my personal views about the occult, while "Descending..." has some real old school lyrics as I wrote them back in 1991. Gilles de Rays is the man we're talking about. I guess, you can imagine the topics for "Legion of Doom" and "Witch of Hell".

What about the vinyl version? Has it come out yet and will it contain some extra stuff or will it be a cool version just because it's on vinyl?

- No, it hasn't been released yet. There are several reasons why it's taking so long. First, the "12 is going to be accompanied with a extensive booklet, containing the band history, stories, photos, etc. Because of the major costs of such a booklet it took some time to figure out where and how (black/white or colour) such thing could be printed. Furthermore, our relation with DAMNATION went down the drain for a while so this made it definately not easier to get the whole project started. For some time it wasn't even sure wether there would even be a PENTACLE "12 again. As I told you Jeroen of DAMNATION is going to quit in August this year. He wasn't sure if he should invest such a big amount of money in a band whom he kicked of his label, while his label is going to call it quit in some months. Now both band and label decided to pull it off anyway, so we're going to pay for the booklet while DAMNATION will do the vinyl. We (PENTACLE) just have to have "Ancient Death" on vinyl. Not only because it's a part of our tradition, but also the demand is very big and more important, it's our anniversary release. It's definately something special for us after being in PENTACLE for almost 12 years by now. We must celebrate this fact. So right now we're busy in getting the lay-out for the booklet done. I hope it won't take too long before it's going to be released.



Also since last time you also did a split "10 together with brother in arms, DESASTER, as well as the infamous split "7 with REPUGNANT. How do you feel about these two now?

- Still proud as hell! The split with DESASTER came out very well. All the different versions are great. I'm 100% into the concept of the "10. It's a very honest release and it has been done with style. Unfortunally it seemed to be very popular to release those splits by another label (SEASON OF MIST?) as well, but we know this one came directly from our hearts, so there's nothing wrong with that. I still thank Costa for his great work, honesty and dedication! The "10 has become a collector's item and that's cool for sure. The split "7 with REPUGNANT was a bit of a let down... Ha, ha. No just kidding! You did your best and thusfar the reactions have been great! It's a true underground release in the TO THE DEATH tradition and I enjoy this. It has been great to be featured with such a cool band as REPUGNANT who did a very fine version of "Mortal Remains". As an old OBSCURITY head myself I was pleasantly suprised by their contribution. And as PENTACLE wasn't featured on red vinyl 'till then we had something more to be proud of. To be honest, the real purpose of the POSSESSED track was to be featured on the "Seven Gates of Horror" tribute and because this didn't work out for whatever reason I feel it didn't achieve it's goal. For the rest I'm very satisfied with the release and you can read in the "Ancient Death" booklet what my feelings are...

Following the last one, isn't it time to see a full length PENTACLE soon?

- That would be great, but don't expect too much. We haven't written one new song after the completion of "Ancient Death", so there's loads of work to do. You know we really need our time to compose our songs, so I truely can't say when the next release will come. It's just too far away to tell you anything about it.

Do you think you can stay true to "The Ancient Feeling" and still achieve some commercial succes?

- It depends on how you define commercial succes. I mean, we did gigs with major bands like IMMORTAL, OBITUARY, ANATHEMA, MARDUK, SAMAEL, EMPEROR, CANNIBAL CORPSE and more. This is of course some form of "commercial succes" although we're not selling like crazy. If you sell 2500 copies of an album, is that a commercial succes? How much does a SADISTIC INTENT sell? Or USURPER, NIFELHEIM, MORTUARY DRAPE, NUN SLAUGHTER or MORTEM? I truely don't know any figures. I guess bands like us will never sell very much, because we don't have the right label in our back and because the music is only suitable for a special public. On the other hand, when I was in ASPHYX we "seemed" so sell very decent, but ASPHYX has a big status and a wellkown name in the scene. Better promotion and distribution for sure does work. So I guess all in all it's definately possible to stay true to your heart and sell lots of records, but that last one didn't work for PENTACLE. VENOM, POSSESSED, CELTIC FROST, KREATOR and DESTRUCTION sold thousands of copies of their records, but those were other bands and times, of course.

Something that's been nagging my mind is: do you think it's possible to see or rather hear, different cultural feelings in bands (like Swedish, Norwegian, American, etc.) and if so, do you have any special Dutch feeling to your music?

- Well, if some band is incoperating their cultural heritage like folk-music or the samba (...), for sure it's recognizable. As far as Metal on its own... I feel bands from South-America have a very distinctive sound. Very aggressive, lots of speed and totally to the bone. Just listen to your COGUMELO collection! 90% of those bands truely sound South-American and you know what I mean! Those guys always say they're playing such aggressive music because of the extreme cultur they have overthere. What about this Australian Metal? BESTIAL WARLUST, SADISTIK EXEKUTION, DESTROYER 666, VOMITOR, SPEAR OF LONGINUS, ENCABULOS, SLAUGHTER LORD, GOSPEL OF THE HORNS, ATOMIZER and many more. I haven't heard of any Gothic Doom Metal band from Down Under. (I have and it is pretty disgusting! ED) Or the old UK scene with old PARADISE LOST, CATHEDRAL, MY DYING BRIDE and LORDS OF PUTREFACTION. Those bands were very typical for the English scene as well. I read something about depressive weather and surroundings long time ago. I guess it has something to do with the way they express themselves musicalwise. As far as Holland, that's a bit more difficult. I don't think there's something really typical in the sound of Dutch bands. Personally, I thought this Gothic Doom/Death-thing was typical Dutch, but to be honest I don't know why. It just fitted our scene. Someone said the vocals of bands like DELIRIUM, PESTILENCE/ASPHYX, SOULBURN and PENTACLE were typical Dutch. Well, that's easy with me being in three of these bands, so there's only Martin van Drunen en Mark Honout left. Is that typical? Maybe you can tell me if we "sound" Dutch. I'm too involved in the whole matter to be objective towards my own band.

What does the future has to offer concerning PENTACLE?

- The "Ancient Death" M-LP and I seriously hope it won't take too long as usual with all those fuckers who can't do their job the right way!!! We have got an offer to do a split release with SADISTIC INTENT, but as they have troubles enough to release "The Second Coming..." I doubt if it'll work out. But it would definately be great as SADISTIC INTENT are a killer band with the right attitude!!! Furthermore some interesting festivals/gigs and new cool merchandise. At last some backing vocals by John DePlachett and a drink - a - long with Tom "Warrior" to get everything sorted out, ha, ha! Thanks Cronis for the interview and Metalion for the opportunity to feature Pentacle in his SLAYER MAGAZINE for the 2nd time. Death, the ancient way!!!

PENTACLE, Franse Hoef 17, 5531 PD Bladel, The Netherlands, pentacle@chello.nl

HEMLOCK

Interview

When it comes to Black Metal I always had a soft spot for the more disturbing acts. You know, bands that have more to offer than running around in the forest with plastic swords and so on. So it is safe to say I find that disturbing element in HEMLOCK. HEMLOCK has all you demand from a fucked up Black Metal band, and they are really fucking good. Two full lengths, a mini and some other stuff are released and their last opus "Lust For Fire" is something you must own! UGLINESS PREVAILED!

First of all, there has been some rumours circulating concerning who owns the rights to the band name or whatever, is that something worth getting into or not?

- Yeah well, its something that we laugh at. That individual has some "issues" to settle on his own...

OK, the sound of HEMLOCK, it is vicious and terrifying at the same time, how much of the sound can be blamed on the fact that you are from New York?

- I think it is more of a mental state why our sound is what it is. You have to understand that the four people that make this band are not exactly mentally stable [ok, Balth is exception...to some degree.] I think you of all people know something about that! The inner battles of this band would scare most "normal" folk. Of corpse New York City has provided some "inspiration" but it really boils down to what the individuals of HEMLOCK deal with/create on there own time. Strife has without doubt made us stronger as a unit as well as taken us further into insanity. Essential to survive in this hell we call home. Of Corpse REAL Black Metal is UGLY!!!

How do you view the future of HEMLOCK, with the mental state of the members in mind is it possible to carry on with this band for a long time?

- It's impossible to say at this point, I don't look too deep in to the future. You have to understand that things change so often [due to the mental roller coasters we all ride] its skitzo. But at least we are doing a new "7 for AJNA and probably another album, that all depends on each member's will to carry on. One thing for sure: we are not going to be one of those bands dishing out shit all the time for ego's sake. If it takes two years for another album...no problem...

What about other bands from New York are there anything you find of interest?

- New York was once chocking full of interesting bands in the late '70ies/'80ies: RIOT, WHIPLASH, DUST, CARNIVORE, OVERKILL, CITIES, TWISTED SISTER. SIR LORD BALTIMORE, THE RODS, NAUSEA, WINTER, MANOWAR, PHANTOM LORD etc. But as far as today's groups, well here's some cool stuff that I find interesting. Some bands that manage to kick out some good tunes are: THE SUN DESCENDS, TERROR OF THE TREES, IABHORER, IRON RAINBOW, KHANATE, CEREMONIUM, PROFANATICA/HAVOHEJ...That's what's going on around these parts that sound good to me...

I guess beauty is in the eye of the beholder, but personally I do find some beauty (if you can call it that) in "Lust For Fire" (title track for instance), would you agree?

- Yes I do agree. I find beauty in the grotesque. The melodies and arrangements work really well together to give it a dramatic touch. Azalin is really into classical music and you could hear that in the arrangements of his songs.

Most Scandinavian bands for instance live in very safe surroundings and they really don't get to know that downside of humanity. In HEMLOCK's atmosphere that creates this hostile feeling. But up here most bands sound nice even if they don't want to be nice because everything is so safe here. Comments?

- I totally understand what you mean. I'm convinced that all these norsecore bands want to portray this misanthrope's angle in the music and image but what the hell is sooo scary about a place like Sarpsborg (Hey man, stop talking good about Sarpsborg, this place is hell on earth!! ED) or Asker? Even Oslo is "Mecca" for family events blah blah blah.. That people have smiles and everything organic is bright and happy. That is why I have no respect for 99.9% of these bands. They are pretenders. They are actors. It is impossible for HEMLOCK to "fake" what we do. I am totally into the extremity New York provides us and we all enjoy a great laugh [usually at others expense]. This city is a non-stop grim circus ready to explode.

It says on "Lust For Fire" that it is un-produced by HEMLOCK, still I think the sound is strong. It doesn't sound like anything else. My understanding is that this under produced thing must be very produced in order to get that certain sound?

- Yeah its got that fucking rough demo sound. But it took us a while to "fine tune" the recordings. Almost all the signals are digital, some are from audio tapes. The mastering also added some of that "massive" sound to it. I personally think this is the best recording we have ever done. And I proud to say we all worked really hard on the recording, we all engineered it, routed cables blah blah blah.. You should have seen the expression on the guy's face that was mastering it! In fact HADES [classic Metal New Jersey band] was in that studio recording as well and I saw one of the guys faces when our door slipped open during the session. Cool guys, they must have been like "what the fuck"...

There is some confusion concerning un-named tracks an on "Lust For Fire", tell us about those?

- Well that is based on the fact we had little 'interludes" [winds howling etc.] between certain songs and when it was mastered it listed them as separate tracks, that is what through everybody off...

The album ticks in just above 24 minutes. A bit too short many might claim but who cares as long as the material devastates your soul. But why was it this shortness? Is it because of lack of quality material? Are you picky when it comes to new stuff or.

- Hell fucking yeah we are picky. But we WANTED to make a "to the point" record and I think its much better to keep the listener on the edge of his/her seat than to put a stupid filler or intro outro bollocks... We will leave that to the norsecore wannabes dishing out product after product after product. Keyboards can still fuck off!

Also the cover/booklet is something out of the ordinary, perhaps a bit hard to swallow for narrow-minded Black Metallers, but it works well, it is very different. Did you try to be different or this just how it is in your world?

- Yeah this how my world works. Visuals are REALLY important to me and I don't pay attention to what Metal records look like in the 90's-00's all I know is back when the pioneers of this music put out records, they all looked different and interesting. Now every fuck asshole does the predictable. We stay faaaaaaaaaarrrrrrrrrr away from all this "plastic" crap excuse for artwork. Metalion, you have to admit that a lot of today's covers fucking suck!!

Yes I agree, there are a lot of horrible covers out there. Anyway, art seems to be important to you, tell us about your art?

- Art is my blood. I don't spend time over analysing what I create. I just work in the immediate and let chance take me where ever...I'm really into mixed media and now I have been making some small installation's...Its something that satisfies me just as quality music, sex, drugs, food.

NECRODEATH

You also had your art in galleries and so on, - ... art is something that you will concentrate more and more on in the future.
- Yeah I just had a show at CBGB's here in NYC and I'm working on another one for the fall hopefully...I treat art and music in equal priority because each one feeds my hunger just the same. I'm sure the future will bring some surprises. On the art front it will be a focus when I can no longer hold a guitar...

Metal is also art, but in a different way. How do you view the differences between painting and creating Metal? Do you get some of the same feeling?
- To some extent they have a co-existence within me, both are "larger than life" but Metal brings deep-rooted hatred to flow in these veins and makes me more aggressive, where as art is like a good meal and feeds the soul [is that too cliché???] it's a balance that keeps me alive....

Obviously you have a world outside of HEMLOCK so lets dive further into that. We mentioned the art, and now the infamous side projects. Tell us about the band(s) you are involved in besides HEMLOCK....
- I like to keep busy when possible so I don't get myself into too much trouble. I'm a big fan of music in general so I have a few outlets for these interests: REVENGE is something I really love to do, its part improvised/structured, inspired by: SWANS, GOBLIN, WENDY CARLOS. So its kind of sludge/soundtrack related. REDRUM is like old crossover, thrash shit like ADRENALIN OD, SIEGE, CRUMBSUCKERS, DARK ANGEL that kind of stuff. TE3 DYING LIGHT is my other Metal focus! Totally insane street metal like old SLAYER, MORBID ANGEL, POSSESSED etc. Totally fucking fast!! Other than that, I'm working on a solo thing, which is going to be really primitive shit. And lastly, I spend time/money increasing my record collection weekly....

How do you view playing live? What is your intention by doing live shows? Are you trying to bring the crowd on your side by getting them all fucked up during your set?
- Live to me is really important. We always manage to create kaos during our sets. Things are always flying off stage. Sometimes human, sometimes not. Usually the crowd turns the place upside down by the time we are done with the stage... you should ask o'malley about the chair missiles launched they last time he came down!

Is it ok to drink before you go on stage?
- Hell fuckin' yeah!!! And bang out is essential as well! White widow, northern lights...g13 whatever.

Can live shows been seen as some sort of trance for you? How long before you turn back to reality after a live show?
- Yeah we all get into a "frame of mind" when we are up on stage...I feel fuckin alive when the music is fuckin' loud. That is what Metal is all about! Violence! As far as 'coming down' after a gig, its usually more drinking and other things...It depends, HEMLOCK usually spends the rest of the night laughing at others [surprise]...

Finally, what is it in life that all humans are after and maybe in yours also? - I live for the ultimate primal bliss: Fucking, creating and eating. There are too many distractions on this planet that try to destroy the basis of my existence. The rest of humanity is eternally damned by the hard grip of the western world...

Your new album "Black As Pitch" and is roughly released around the same time as new SLAYER, a strange thing is that NECRODEATH sounds more like a hungry SLAYER than SLAYER do, what is your comment on the SLAYER album "God Hates Us All"?
- Do you really think this??? (It certainly kicks ass of new SLAYER! ED) .. well, thank you, because I think this is a nice compliment .. anyway, I do like the new SLAYER as well: I was scared about it because I heard a lot of bad things about, but I think is good, very violent.

"Black As Pitch" is our new masterpiece and as far I remember it is also a movie, why did you title the album after a movie?
- Well, believe it or not, this title was chosen without knowing about the movie .. then I saw on the newspaper a review of this movie, but nobody of us went to the cinema. The title was good for us and we decided to keep it.

Can you tell me a bit about your lyrics? Do you put much work into them?
- Not me personally, I usually don't write lyrics, so Peso and Flegias do all the work. I know Peso spent a lot of time on them and he spent a lot of time in arranging all the vocals. All our lyrics are available on our web site WWW.NECRODEATH.COM

Many of the younger generation might consider your vocals as Black Metal like, what's your comment on that?
- I agree with them that Flegias style has a lot of black metal: I like this, because I like to think that we play the right mix of thrash and black metal.

You are a old band still you seem to carry on the energy of the youth really good, how do you explain that? Is it the Metal that makes you young?
- Let's hope!!!! .. I don't know really .. Metal is our way of throwing out our violent side: there are many occasion of getting angry nowadays and of course often you can do nothing in normal life, I mean you cannot kick or kill all the people you hate .. so we play and put all our energy into it!!!!!

Before the release of the new album it was a rumour that you signed to AVANTGARDE but you are again with SCARLET, was this only a rumour or what?
- I suppose it was: Scarlet and AVANTGARDE are two of the most known independent label for extreme metal here, and we know very well the guys in both labels .. then AVANTGARDE published now the reprint of our second old album Fragments of Insanity ... that's maybe the reason for rumours.

Still AVANTGARDE re-released the "Fragments Of Insanity", isn't that pretty strange when all your other stuff go through SCARLET?
- Yeah .. but you have to know that the original master tape of Fragments was not in our hands ... AVANTGARDE was good to buy the rights from the old owner ... I suppose they just did it quicker than SCARLET!!!

On the track "Riot Of Stars" there could for a few seconds be heard a different vocal approach, is that done by a guest singer or what?
- Really ??? .. I don't know, but I think it's not a choice ... a little different singing I can recognise on "Process of Violation", but I didn't noticed on "Riot Of Stars." (Well, I did!!! ED)

This is your 2nd album after your re-union, do you still have a lot of albums in you you think? How do you view your future?
- This I don't know actually: of course we love to play this music and we would like to do it in the future .. on the other side, it's not easy for us to find the time to play, record, touring, and it's getting more difficult as years pass, so I think we will decided after the promotional gigs for this album ... if our fans want, we will keep on thrashin'.

In-between the two new albums you also released some sort of home video, can you tell us a bit about that? Is it still for sale?
- Yes, we sell it directly of course, if you can't find it in some little shop !!! .. the video is a sort of NECRODEATH history from "Into the Macabre" to "Mater of all Evil", with 2 video clips, interviews, studio report from Sweden and live gigs, .it is around 50 minutes long.

You also recorded the album in Sweden again, was it more easy this time around you think?
- Well, there is nothing easy with Pelle (the producer!!!), he's very professional and everything must fit as he has in his mind. So, it's always a hard job, but the results are good as the previous time I think.

What about the writing of the material for this new album, do you find it easy to write this material now?
- Yeah, this material came out easily, as you can see it is more or less in the same vein of "Mater Of All Evil": we just tried to put an effort in having more simple structures in the songs, this time it is maybe even more in your face of the previous one.

Is there any serious touring being planned for you now?
- Well .. as you probably know is not easy for us to plan a real tour of one month or stuff like that: I don't think we never could do it, nevertheless we could have a small tour maybe in the springtime, but nothing is fixed at the moment.

Thanks for this short interview then, better than nothing I hope!!!!
- THANKS TO YOU FOR YOUR GREAT SUPPORT !!!!!!

Damn this was short!

Dracena

DRACENA have a new demo out as well as their "Demonic Women" demo CD has been released on beatiful red vinyl, reasons enough to see what is going on me thinks! Mia is answering the questions!

What strikes me as the most odd thing is that you still not have a record deal, what is going on with that? It has been a few years since the release of "Demonic Women" so have you been extremly picky when it comes to offers and so on or....

- We have had some labels that has shown interest in DRACENA. I guess they will wait to see what happens with our music. And since we yet haven's released a new demo, due to line-up changes, we haven't gotten any new offers lately. During the last year I have reieved some requests from a few labels that wonders if we have released anything new. We'll see what will happen after our next demo release.

Does it bother you much to go on playing a band without a proper deal? Are you frustrated? Is it hard to get motivated for the future?

- The first 6 month after the "Demonic Women" release it felt a bit frustrated to not get a contract. We did have an offer that we were interested in, but the label didn't have enough money all of a sudden. Later on we have kept writing new material, trying to find a drummer and get some gigs to play. At the moment we have very much attention from both 'zines and people who wants to buy our demo. We have plans for a new recording as soon as possible, and are writing brand new material for that one. We also have a re-release of "Demonic Women" on "7 vinyl at NEAR DARK PRODUCTIONS (swe), a "7 with new material that will be released at REALMS OF DARKNESS (US) sometime next year and a few compilations that will feature DRACENA as well.

It doesn't bother me very much, although it would be nice to get a deal and get the opprtunity to record a fullenght album or two haha. It can sometimes be a bit hard to get motivated, especially when there are line-up problems, but this last 6 months it's been a lot going on with the band and it feels like we have a few things to look forward to this autumn too.

Well, it is not all bad news, there is the "7 I already mentioned with the material of the "Demonic Women", tell me about that?

- We were contacted by Kim from Near Dark Productions, who had heard our demo at a party, and he was very interested in releasing it on a "7 vinyl. It is out now. It will feature the tracks "Demonic Women" and "Hounds of Hell". The third song was too long to fit in and we decided to not have it on. There's a brand new cover, cause we felt for doing something different from the cd-demo. We have also added an intro and outro. Further details on our website.

How is the situation with new material then, do you have a much material?

- We write new material right now for our next demo and the new "7. This far we have 3 brand new songs ready, and some yet to be arranged. Between '97 and '00 we have some 4 - 5 tracks that we have not yet decided if we will release or not.

How do you view the creation of songs now, do you think like *'this is going to be the first song on the eventually LP'* or...

- I mostly think of if it will be a good live song, haha. Although we don't play too often live, it's the part of the playing I like best. In which order the songs will appear on the release is something we decide after the recording, even if there's some ideas before about that too.

So, if I understand you right there is a new demo coming...

- Yes, we are making a new demo, and it will be recorded within a few weeks. Don't know yet how many songs that will be featured, but at the moment at least three. The new songs are a bit different, perhaps because it's some years between the latest release, but also because we have a new drummer, whotakes part in arranging the songs. But they will be in the DRACENA vein of Metal haha.

You also played a few gigs in 2001, one in Gothenburg with SIEBENBURGEN and also at the 2 HEAVY 4 U FESTIVAL. What do you think of playing live, do you feel comfertable on stage?

- I love to play live. But sometimes there are certain things surrounding the gig that brings down the feeling of playing live. Like a lot of problems with equipment before the gig, or bad sound. It's not fun to play when one can't hear anything else but the drums. Even though people haven't heard more than 3 of our songs they usually appreciate the music and we get a few rows of headbangers, hehe. We will try to get more gigs this both in Sweden and out in Europe.

Again you have a new drummer, what happened to your former drummerDennis?

- Dennis chose not to play with us anymore. After he left we had some problems with finding a new drummer. We had an ad out in the local recordshop and we tried a few people before we chose Mojjo to be the new member. We hope he'll stay around for some years haha. This far it's been no problems, even though he plays in two other bands as well. He suits the band perfectly, both personally and in the way he plays the drums.

Is it completely impossible to find a female drummer or is that not a concern?

- At our latest search we wanted the best drummer we could get, but also a person who fit the band. And we found the best person for that job. We had a few other drummers that showed interest, but all of them were male. Female drummers are rare, and especially in Metal music. It would be nice to have a female drummer, but it is not a priority.

Your guitarist Emma can also be found in RUNEMAGICK, do that interfere much with DRACENA?

- Our guitarist Emma plays the bass in RUNEMAGICK, and our drummer Mojjo is also playing the drums in RUNEMAGICK. This far it hasn't been any problems at all, and I hope there will be none in the future.

What about you then, do you have any side projects?

- Yes I have a project under construction with a female friend from Göteborg. As it's not completely clear of bandname and other details I don't wanna say to much about it. Time will tell...

In the history of Metal it has always been mostly a male thing, as DRACENA is 75% a female band I was wondering if DRACENA has a different approach to making Metal? Is there some sort of other influence you use?

- If we make our music in a different way i don't know, but perhaps we do, like male and female in many other ways, haha. I don't want to speculate in what we do different than male bands, 'cause it has never been in my interest to find out, hehe. I guess we are influenced from all bands we are listening to, and that the music we write just comes natural and is not planned to sound in a special way. That could be one explaination to why our songs all differ from each other.

What about your country of origin then, is there a Swedish influence in your music you think?

- I can't hear any special Swedish sound in our music. We don't have the Gothenburg sound, and I wouldn't say we sound like any other Swedish band either.

The new demo can be bought for 50 SEK here in Scandinavia or 5$ worldwide! Contact them for further information!

dracena.mia@telia.com

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ThRASHAGEDON

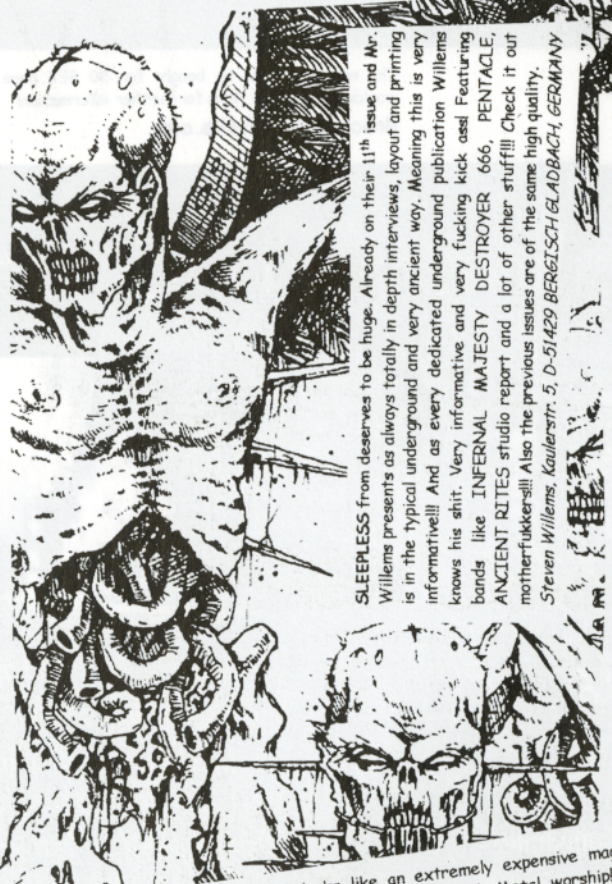
ARRRGGGGGGGGGHHH! There have to be some support for people who still appreciate the stinking underground; here we hell rats are bound to stay forever!!!! First of I start of with some fanzines. Starting with **IMHOTEP** Vol. 7 "Invitation" this time. Things change in the Roy camp and this magazine seems to be more and more professional. It is glossy; the layout is easy to read (except for the RHAPSODY interview in colour which looks – well – not horrible but if you are doing colours why not use them on something extremely underground instead of RHAPSODY which you can see colour pictures of everywhere?) So it looks good, there are colour pages; the front-page artwork is cool but not very fucking Metal. The bands are mostly of the nicer kind this time (THE BLACK LEAGUE, KATATONIA, RHAPSODY...) but the interviews are still very long, so at least that concept hasn't changed. They tend to be very in-depth these interviews and pretty annoying if you don't like the bands. All in all, this is nice nice nice. I do prefer the last "Black Metal" issue to this with the more necro look. Now it looks like a fancy magazine – like whatever from Germany. Concerning the reviews, there are tons of them and 3 different persons review some of the same albums. I don't really see the point in that when the reviews are pretty close. And in the DIMMU BORGIR where Roy screams out FUCK NUCLEAR BLAST doesn't make sense, as there are more positive DIMMU reviews. If he really hates NUCLEAR BLAST for sending out edited promos he should instead ignore them completely and not let his fellow writers make reviews. Now this was the review of the magazine, now to my personal assault on Editor Roy and his fanzine reviews. Well, the reviews he did of SLAYER MAGAZINE actually. Usually, I really don't care what people think of my magazine, but when Roy voices his opinion about SLAYER MAGAZINE it is just so stupid I need to raise my voice – VERY FUCKING LOUD!!! The thing is, when he is spreading blatant lies or very misguided information I need to do something. I know that no one really cares but let me do this for my own peace of mind – ok? Roy is sceptic towards my reviews – if he really can trust me. Yes Roy, I always tell my honest opinion, I dislike most of the shit released these days so I say that. I also like the '80ies bands much more than what is going on today. However, this doesn't mean I hate all stuff released now. If it is good, I give it good reviews. If I hate it, I give it bad reviews. It is as easy as that, and for me honesty in my reviews is what it is all about! If you don't agree with me, that is fine but don't come here say I'm not honest against myself. That is plain stupid! Roy also is aware that we featured a interview with CRADLE OF FILTH in SLAYER 10, released in '95. Roy finds it strange that I hate this band because I featured a interview with them over six years ago. Well, at that time CRADLE OF FILTH was a new and somewhat interesting Black Metal band. Like for instance I liked their "Total Fucking Darkness" demo because it was raw for that time. However, time changes and CRADLE turned more and more into a joke with less and less interesting music. More and more concerned with their pathetic vampire image as well as other useless things, horrible cover versions etc. I HATE CRADLE OF FILTH!!!! But I featured a interview with them done in '94, published in '95. So Roy, you can hang me for that! I will always speak shit about CRADLE as long as they release crap music or insist on wrecking old classics by SODOM, IRON MAIDEN, SLAYER and so on! If you have a problem – fine – FUCK OFF! I don't care. The problem is you say it destroys my integrity or credibility, which is bollocks. Now Roy, go ahead and continue your nice magazine. But don't spread fucking lies or information you think is right! I have no problem with people disagreeing with my views or think I'm a completely fool, that's cool. But if you ever doubt my sincerity or dedication to the sake of Metal I do get upset! No one in the entire world would bother to read this except Roy anyway so what the fuck?

IMHOTEP c/o Roy Kristensen, Berglyveien 9, 1262 OSLO, NORWAY

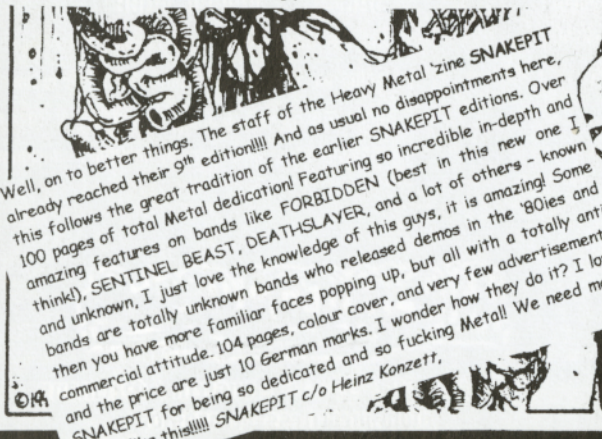
After having a break of seven or so years the infamous Culto decided to resurrect his **SEPULCHRAL NOISE** 'zine and release issue 7 – "Comeback issue – The Flashback". If you remember this 'zine I can tell you this new edition is done in the exact same manner. This edition is more varied when it comes to the written extent, besides interviews with MAYHEM, VARATHRON etc. you can find a lot of occult stuff as well as movie reviews, articles on actors etc. Also a interview with the infamous Sonny Barger of HELLS ANGEL, sadly enough that interview was a bit short. But anyway, a very mixed 'zine with personality, you should get it now! 64 for 56 pages! PASTE & GLUE FOREVER! *SEPULCHRAL NOISE, P.O. Box 598, 1703 SARPSBORG, NORWAY*

PROSTATA – a really funny one here from Norway. Reminding me a bit of the old SLAYER humour you could find in my earlier issues actually. This is the third issue so far and I hope there will be more soon! Interviews and stuff with MAYHEM, HORNA, ANCIENT, DARKTHRONE and others. Also lots of fun stuff and not to forget the very informative article about the cow. (The cow article is written in Norwegian but still a masterpiece of masterful journalism!) 5$ to: *Kim Johnsen, Risveien 5, 0374 OSLO, NORWAY*

CANADIAN ASSAULT – Editor Dale sure is a VENOM HELL BANGER thus gracing his 'zine after one of the VENOM ASSAULTS! Well, I'm sure originally being Canadian had something to do with as well! 6th issue from the Dalester and this 'zine comes in a size that is not normal anymore, the so called 'half sized', and even a bit smaller! So being smaller than most others it sure is packed, and that's the only problem I have with this. The print gets to small, especially when backgrounds are used it might get hard to read. Besides that, thumbs up!!! Featuring interviews with ANATA, BLOODSTORM, DARKNESS ETERNAL, GOSPEL OF THE HORNS, BESTIAL MOCKERY, LEATHER 'N SPIKES 'zine and a lot of other stuff!!! 100 pages! *Dale Roy, Apt. # 1, 6318 Bingham Street, Philadelphia, PA. 19111, USA metaldale@hotmail.com*

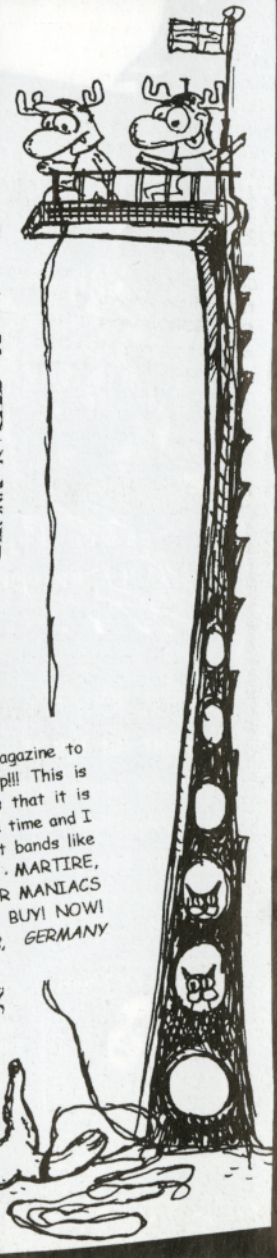


SLEEPLESS from deserves to be huge. Already on their 11th issue and Mr. Willems presents as always totally in depth interviews, layout and printing is in the typical underground and very ancient way. Meaning this is very informative!!! And as every dedicated underground publication Willems knows his shit. Very informative and very fucking kick ass! Featuring bands like INFERNAL MAJESTY DESTROYER 666, PENTACLE, ANCIENT RITES studio report and a lot of other stuff!!! Check it out motherfukkers!!! Also the previous issues are of the same high quality. *Steven Willems, Kaulerstr. 5, D-51429 BERGISCH GLADBACH, GERMANY*



Well, on to better things. The staff of the Heavy Metal 'zine **SNAKEPIT** already reached their 9th edition!!!! And as usual no disappointments here, this follows the great tradition of the earlier SNAKEPIT editions. Over 100 pages of total Metal dedication! Featuring so incredible in-depth and amazing features on bands like FORBIDDEN (best in this new one I think!), SENTINEL BEAST, DEATHSLAYER, and a lot of others – known and unknown. I just love the knowledge of this guys, it is amazing! Some bands are totally unknown bands who released demos in the '80ies and then you have more familiar faces popping up, but all with a totally anti commercial attitude. 104 pages, colour cover, and very few advertisements and the price are just 10 German marks. I wonder how they do it? I love SNAKEPIT for being so dedicated and so fucking Metal! We need more people like this!!!!! *SNAKEPIT c/o Heinz Konzett,*

Fuck, **NECROMANIAC** looks like an extremely expensive magazine to print. Glossy paper, 68 pages of total Death Metal worship!!! This is another magazine I truly envy! The somewhat sad thing is that it is written in German! Well, I can read some German given some time and I love this! Excellent layout! This 2nd onslaught features great bands like NUNSLAUGHTER (mice poster too!), GOREAPHOBIA, MARTIRE, POSSESSED, IMPETIGO etc. "SICKOFANZINE ONLY FOR MANIACS NOT FOR PUSSY'S! It boldly states on the cover too!!!! BUY! NOW! *Thomas Westphal, Auestr. 7, 27616 KRANSMOOR, GERMANY necromaniaczine@aol.com*



FROM BEYOND reached issue 6, with professional printing and good bands. This issue is released through RED STREAM and I hope it works out well. Harald is a die hard Metal bastard like me and he knows his stuff. Also besides excellent interviews with NIFELHEIM, NECROPHAGIA, DIABOLIC we also got some serial killer stuff, this time Mr. Dahmer is featured. Glossy paper, professional print and Metal supremacy! The only drawback is that it s only 32 pages but they are packed to maximum! *FROM BEYOND, P.O. Box 1756, 7416 TRONDHEIM, NORWAY zombi@c2i.net*

TOTAL NECRO – An extreme Black Metal 'zine with extreme views – the only way it should be in this genre! This features some bizarre articles like the one on THE UNHOLY SUICIDE CULT or the HOW TO KILL feature! Besides that, interviews with NIFELHEIM, MANIAC BUTCHER, HEMLOCK, JUDAS ISCARIOT, CLANDESTINE BLAZE and others. This is the debut issue, await more madness! *NECROHOLIC PRODUCTIONS, 9 Vincent Place, Teterboro, NJ. 07608, USA totalnecro@aol.com*

Some demos has been passed on as usual, since most of it is crappy Italian keyboard dominated Black Metal wanting to get a deal with HEAD NOT FOUND. I must confess, most of these kind of bands were dropped. I skimmed through the demos and found a few other interesting things. Like **SUN DESCENDS**, the best demo in this issue by far. If this was an album I give it a (5). If you read the interview with EXUMER you will find out that sun descends is the band of Mem Von Stein from EXUMER. It is only 3 tracks but so fucking great and brutal stuff. True thrash aggression in the early vein of this classic style. This is most likely the logical follow up to "Possessed By Fire" album. A healthy dose of SLAYER and EXODUS brought to you in fine manner by this awesome trio. This is going to be released on limited edition "10 vinyl! AWESOME!!!! Contact through this e mail address: *cavitzendut@hotmail.com*

VICTIMIZER from Denmark also turned out to be enjoyable. I was for some expecting modern Black Metal but I was wrong. What **VICTIMIZER** delivers is kind of old school rock & roll Black Metal with a tad of BATHORY. Pretty fucking cool stuff. Three tracks are served here in the shape of "Hell Revealed", "Pentagram Warfare" and "Skullfucked By Victimizer"! This tape is limited to 15 copies and it says it is a advance tape, a advance tape for what I'm not sure. But definitely check this out! *VICTIMIZER, Vejby Toften 102, 8240 RISSKOV, DANMARK skullfucked@victimizer.com*

OUROBOROS – sikk fukks from Kanadal Recorded at the infamous Death Cult Studio you pretty much know what you are in for. Another case of the audible essence of EVIL! On the "Invoking The Worm" demo 2000 **OUROBOROS** present five tracks of misanthropic madness. Just highly disturbing, very effective in the evil sense of the word musikal adventures. Bands like this really knows what underground means, not meant for the mainstream followers. Some of the songs have some sot of mid-paced features but no matter what – this is inSatanity! If you want something different to spice up your everyday life look no further!!!!! *Bernard Asquin, 9830-78 Ave., Edmonton, Ab, T6E-1N3, CANADA*

HORNED is a pretty young band hailing from Sweden. Their "Three Ways To Kill" demo (with four tracks actually) is a Thrash assault in the vein of SLAYER and THE HAUNTED. I guess they are pretty inspired by THE HAUNTED as I get a THE HAUNTED vibe by looking at the cover, But anyway, those Swedish thrashers are pretty cool and worth checking out. Web cite: horned.cjb.net *HORNED INC., Södra Domarev, 20, 66333 SKOGHALL, SWEDEN*

THE DYING LIGHT, another uglier than fuck older than old school Death Metal band coming from the pits of New York. Very powerful deathish stuff here which is incredible raw. A surprising thing here might be the MORBID ANGEL like lead work at times and also some rotten, bestial Thrash parts! SARCOFAGO is also another name I can compare it to. It has this whole old vibe to it! DEATH BY METAL! Mail them to see if you can get hold of this Metal of Death release! *p.reca@hotapp.com*

ARCKANUM - The troll returned!!! Fuck Mortiis, the real fucking forest troll is back! For anyone being involved in the underground Shamate is a well known figure. After splitting from NECROPOLIS he is back with his ARCKANUM, well, I'm not sure if he ever was gone. Playing this takes me back ten years in time or so. Nothing has changed in the trollish world of ARKANUM. Music sounds like the first breed of 'modern' Black Metal, adding some trollish aspects of course. This is an advance tape of a 7 EP featuring two excellent tracks. But a lot of more releases is planned from the troll. Like at least 3 split EP:es and a anniversary CD!!! Cool! This EP which will be called "Boka Vm Kaos" is going to be released by CARNAL RECORDS. Contact: *carnalrecords@hotmail.com* Further information on ARCKANUM on *http://arckanmmum.cjb.net*

MLO

Misantropiska Lucifer Orden

An interview with the Swedish organisation MLO, this is an interview for those who are interested in other things. If you only want to read about Metal I guess you should drop this. I got a lot of shit for featuring stuff like this in SLAYER but what can I say? FUCK OFF perhaps? This is SLAYER and I feature what want. Remember, the name is SLAYER, not BE NICE TO YOUR MOTHER. I think you; the readers should enjoy this, as it is quite an exclusive thing.

What does it take, personally, to become a Satanist?

Noxifer: - A Satanist is a person who takes on the role as the constant "accuser" and "opponent", and who wholeheartedly struggle against status quo with a view to bring forth the personal development and evolution that only can be reached through Chaos. What it takes from a person who "wants to be a Satanist" is a strong will to power and an even stronger attraction to the unknown, secret and sinister wisdom, that is Lucifer's gift to the few chosen superior humans who venture into the burning path, which is the way of the Transcendental Anti-cosmic Satanist.

Misanthropy and contempt for society are also essential parts of the true Satanism. Because if a sufficient will shall be able to exist to attain the spiritual evolution and bring forth the endless dark aeon, which is the highest goal for the Anti-cosmic Satanist, there must also exist a burning hate against the prevalent order and the human sheep who gladly submit to the tyranny of the demiurge and the light, pro-cosmic religions. To be able to want to transcend the present cosmic state and become one with the dark gods, who are different aspects of the raging Chaos that reigns outside cosmos and the settled universe, the Satanist must have the "black flame of Chaos" burning inside. Hence, the black flame is by far the most important concept within the Anti-cosmic Satanism.

"The Black Flame" is the esoteric name of the part of the primal Chaos that still burns inside the dark souls of the strong ones. This black flame is the same power that the Sumerians referred to as "The Blood of Kingu", the ancient Egyptian Draconian cults called "The Seed of Apep" and the Kliffotic and Anti-Sephirotic magicians called "The Flame of Molok". The black flame is also the "pneuma" of the dark Gnostics and was also called "The Divine spark". It is this divine spark that is the spirit of the Chaos-Gnostics and the Anti-cosmic Satanists. It is their inner driving force that make them struggle against the cosmic order, life after life, to in the end reach the understanding and wisdom that shall completely awaken the black flame of Chaos/the blood of Kingu and burn the physical and spiritual shackles that keep us imprisoned in this cosmic prison, that the "demiurge" (i.e. the foolish creator) created in the beginning of time.

We were created out of Chaos, against our will, but the black flame strengthens our will and gives us the possibility to seek back to our origin; the wild, dark, paradoxical, fearful, beautiful and eternal Chaos, which is the dragon Tiamat. Therefore it is essential for a person who desire to walk on the left and sinister path to have understanding of the inner black flame, which is the reflection of the external and eternal black flame, Lucifer our cruel and proud father, the bringer of light! The black flame shall set the world on fire! HAIL KAOS!

What does it give you being a Satanist? Do you feel that you're part of a greater concept?

Noxifer: - To be an Anti-cosmic Satanist and Chaos-Gnostic is to us the same as following our own true will, leading us to immortal power and eternal freedom in Chaos. We enter into the darkness of the unknown hunting for the forgotten and dreaded treasures. For we know that our own self-made light, the light of Satan/Lucifer, will guide our steps. Satanism is the path leading us away from the "creation of god" towards the divinity of one's own soul. Through the practice of the black arts and our studies we know that we're on the right track, through the labyrinth where weaker individuals went astray. This gives us great satisfaction. Satanism is the only thing that makes life worth living. For what should this life, among human sheep, that was forced upon us be without the pleasures, ordeals, dangers, battles and victories, as well as the true darkness, "evil", hate, death and infernal wisdom that the dark gods make accessible to the few strong and chosen ones (the elect) who dare to tread the path of the black dragon. Satanism is the salvation for the strong and the annihilation to the weak. We look up to the dark gods that we, when we have reached all our goals, will become one with. We shall break through the cosmic barriers and through the dark portal return into the dragon's womb. Thus, the answer to your question is; Yes, we are a part of the greatest concept. XEPER-I-APEP!

What are your rewards when dedicating your life to Satan(ism)?

Noxifer: - We have already answered this question, but might add that we see Satan as the part of the raging/anti-cosmic Chaos that has been described as "the black light", which is the name of the power that counteract the creator (the demiurge) aiming to crush cosmos and its creator, this way re-establishing the primal state of formless Chaos that ruled before the light and the demiurge came into being.

One of the aims of Satan/Lucifer is to set free the parts of the eternal black flame that are being imprisoned within cosmos. Thus, when the Satanist dedicates himself to Satan(ism) he also dedicates himself to his own liberation. The Anti-cosmic Satanist is the guardian of the black flame/the blood of Kingu and the reward for keeping the black flame burning through the past thousands of years is to become elevated to the black thrones of the ancient gods of darkness and chaos. To become the living portals leading to Chaos! But the highest goal and the final reward for the Satanist is to become one with the dragon of Chaos, free from the shackles of cosmos. SILIM-MADU TIAMAT!

Some say you're a Satanist since the day you were born. How do you view that?

Noxifer: "Being Anti-cosmic Satanists, as we are, we know that we consist of body, soul/astral body and spirit/the black flame. Every time we die, the body and the astral body is killed and the cosmic prana/life-force these two bodies contain is being sucked back into cosmos being recycled in the cosmic circulation. Some black magicians are able, through the practice of vampirism, to program their astral bodies to feed upon the life-force of other living creatures after the death of their own physical body. This way preventing their post-mortem astral bodies from being recycled by the cosmic powers. However, those who practice astral vampirism are in most cases not Anti-cosmic Satanists and don't carry the black flame inside. They therefore deny the existence of the spirit/black flame and see the soul/astral body as the deepest essence of their existence. It is therefore of the utmost importance for these "vampires" to keep their astral bodies alive to avoid the "second death", i.e. the death of the astral body.

We, on the other hand, who have the black flame burning within us and through the past aeons have stood up against the attacks from the gods of light whose objective is to put out our inner chaosfire, this way disconnecting the dark links that bind us to the powers of Chaos, do not care for body and soul/astral body. For we know that as long as the black flame is burning, with the help of a dark mind and a strong will, we will reincarnate life after life. This process is called "being chained to the wheel of life". So if the black flame was burning in your past life then it will be burning inside you this life too. Having this in mind you can say that you're a Satanist since the day you were born.

However, it is important to bear in mind that the demiurge has the objective to extinguish all black flames, that are burning him and his creation from within, and therefore force us to drink from "Lethe", the river of oblivion, each time we die, making us forget the struggle of Chaos against order and the fight of the inner chaos fire for liberation from cosmos. Because of this we sometimes need to be awakened from this slumber and oblivion, that the demiurge puts us in. This awakening is usually called "the bite of the serpent, that opens the eyes of the elect". To deliver the "bite of the serpent" to awaken those of us who slumber is therefore also one of the missions of the Anti-cosmic Satanist. Consequently, the Satanist don't want to redeem the masses, like the religions of the right hand, but the dark and sinister elite that we ourselves belong to. HELL SATANACHESH! Death to the weak!

You are involved in MLO (Misantropiska Lucifer Orden). Tell us some more concerning this organization. When was it started, how many members etc.?

Noxifer: - Misantropiska Lucifer Orden is an Order dedicated to the anti-cosmic powers and to the fortification, liberation and ultimately the reaching of the divinity of the inner black flame. One of our goals is to gather and reunite the elect, who life after life have acted as living portals to the Chaos that reigns outside the barriers of cosmos. Those who through the channelling of the disharmonic and anti-cosmic energies have contributed to speed up the anti-cosmic evolution and the initiation of the endless dark aeon. MLO want, by means of uniting and concentrating the black chaos fires that burn inside these chosen warriors of the left hand path, to burn new holes in the cosmic consciousness and to open new dark portals in the collective unconscious of mankind. This way contributing to the dark gods' invasion of cosmos and the human psyche.

MLO study all dark esoteric doctrines and practice anti-cosmic black magic to increase the powers of our members and the dark gods, both on the spiritual and the material plane. By bringing about the eclipse of our own spirit we darken the macrocosm in large. Still, there are three main branches within the black magic that MLO explore and practice. All of these three dark pathways lead to anti-cosmic freedom and eternal might in Chaos. They are the Sumerian Chaos Gnosticism, the Draconian Setianism and the Kliffotic Anti-cabbala. By developing and to a certain degree combining these three systems, we want to create new dark mythologies, philosophies and rituals that shall contribute to the personal evolution of our members and the reawakening of the black flame in those who in this present life dream the forced dreams of oblivion.

The more exoteric ambitions of MLO is to give room for Anti-cosmic Satanists to interchange thoughts and ideas with likeminded individuals, in that way promoting their progress on the left hand path, which is the path of the black dragon. MLO perform Anti-cosmic Satanism which, by exposing us to real danger, hate, might, strength, battles, darkness, death and chaos, strengthens our identification with the dark gods that we look up to. Our path is therefore a severe and dangerous one that puts our members to the test and sorts out the weak. For it is only the strong that have the will to power, and who realize that knowledge is power, that manage to walk on the burning path. It is through our studies that we plant the seed of power inside our own spirit and when the seed has grown and blossomed we can perform our powerful magic. The Satanist is the herald of Chaos, that at all times should personify might, darkness and sinister gnosis. That which doesn't make us stronger kills the spirit, and we must therefore constantly strive for progress and anti-cosmic evolution. MLO have for example a completely different structure and build-up today than we had say four years ago. We keep on changing and developing with every day that passes, but our goals will always be the same. Chaos = Evolution. Those who don't become stronger must die in order to make way for the mighty. "Might is right!"

All information on our members are confidential and no such information will be given to the public, but we might add that our Order (founded in 1995) today is stronger than ever before, and so is the chaos fire that burn the creation from within! HAIL AZERATE 218! AVE NEX-FERO!

What does it take for someone to become a member of MLO? And what does it give?

Noxifer: - For a candidate to be able to become a member of MLO, he/she must wholeheartedly sympathize with the misanthropic and anti-cosmic values of our Order, and also be over 18 years of age. The candidate should already be an Anti-cosmic/Chaos Gnostic Satanist and a practicing black magician, ready to dedicate his/her entire existence to following his/her true will in accordance to the will of the dark gods. The candidate should then contact the Order by writing to one of our contact addresses (that are to be found by those who have the will to search for them), for example by mail, describing his/her convictions and interest for joining MLO.

If the Order find his/her letter serious and intelligent, the candidate will be introduced to a contact person, a brother/sister of the Order and its second grade. The candidate will then for at least six months be subject to an introduction to the basics of MLO, our anti-cosmic magic, philosophy and mythology/demonology. The candidate will also be given instructions in how to build his/her "black altar" with the "broken pentagram" in focus.

If the contact person makes the estimation that the candidate has a burning interest in the works of MLO and that he/she in some way can contribute to the development of the other members, he/she will after a minimum of six months be initiated into the first and outer circle of the Order, the Misanthropic Legion or "The circle of Taninsam", becoming a member of the Order and its first grade. As a member of the first grade the candidate will have access to more esoteric scriptures and several rituals as well as taking part in most of the activities of the Order like; meetings, feasts and rituals. Before the candidate/member of the first grade can reach the point of becoming a full member (member of the second grade and the first inner circle of MLO, becoming a "Priest/Priestess of Satan") he/she must first, for at least one year, show his/her serious devotion and loyalty towards the Order and our evolutionary anti-cosmic work. It is then up to the contact person to estimate if the candidate has the black flame burning inside and would be suited for further membership in MLO.

If the contact person makes a positive estimation the candidate will be initiated into the first inner circle and become a "Priest/Priestess of Satan" and a member of MLO and its second grade. Thus the journey on the burning path, the path of MLO, begins. "Per aspra, ad astra!"

Within our Order we look upon each other as different reflections of the dark gods and assist each other with everything that can facilitate our spiritual progress. But we do also assist each other with the more physical and material sides of our anti-cosmic struggle. For example removing everything and everyone who dares to stand in the way of any of our members. We who are Anti-cosmic Satanists are always prepared to kill and die for each other, for we know that no one else in this strange world (in which we are strangers) deserves our loyalty. By the dark links of the black flames we, who serve the raging Chaos, are forever united. HAIL LUCIFUGE ROFOCALE!"

It seems like MLO is pretty active looking for and recruiting new members, how can you make a proper judgement of who can join or not? And have you been contacted by a lot of not worthy people?

Noxifer: - MLO don't seek new members, new members seek MLO. Mankind consist of human cattle that, because of their own weakness and apathy, have allowed the demiurge to put out their black flames of Chaos, that in the beginning of time was burning inside their souls. It is these sheep that now gladly submit to the cosmic tyranny and the foolish demiurge. It is therefore a matter of course that we also have been contacted by some of these fools, thinking that Satanism is some kind of game. However, we usually sort out the wolves from the lambs quite easily. Contacting MLO with non-serious intentions usually carries its own punishment. It is only about one percent of all those who call themselves Satanists that has a value and it is this secret elite that still carry the divine spark of Chaos inside. The dark tree of wisdom must be watered with the blood of the unworthy. Only then we can harvest the fruit of true knowledge! Hail misanthropy! Hail the elect!

Is it possible to be a member of MLO as well as some other Satanic organization?

Noxifer: - It is possible to be a member of another Satanic organization simultaneously being a member of MLO, only if the philosophy, values and doctrines of the other organization aren't in opposition to what MLO stand for. For example it is impossible being an active member of "LaVey's church" at the same time being a member of MLO. We don't, however, regard "LaVey's church" and its bastard offspring "Temple of Set" as Satanic organizations. Yet, it must be added that in comparison with the activities of LaVey, Temple of Set is a far more serious and intelligent organization. But they are still not Satanic. Their first mistake was trying to make Setianism and the ruler of darkness, Set, into something accepted and harmless, this way attempting to become a "big" religion, accepted and acknowledged by the rest of the Judaeo-Christian society. Satanism is not for the apathetic masses, but for the elect that have the will, knowledge and power to transcend the limitations of life and death to become one with the gods of Chaos.

The Satanist spits at both the laws of "god" and man and follows the formula of our father Satan/Lucifer: "Chao ab ordo", which means "Chaos from order", and thus follows his own law, which is the true will of the eternal black flame of Chaos. When it comes to the late Mr LaVey and his organization, it is the opinion of no less than every Anti-cosmic and traditional Satanist that LaVey and his "church" has nothing to do with real Satanism. Their "role-play Satanism" is nothing but ordinary atheism spiced with some pseudo-occultism and weird fancy dresses. It's not enough to dress up in black clothing wearing a pentagram around your neck to be able to call yourself a Satanist. Satanism is the tool of the sinister elite for reaching the liberation of the spirit/the black flame (making it immortal) and is not to be defiled by apathetic scum. True Satanism is about constantly representing and acting like the physical manifestations of the dark gods, and through the way we lead our lives act as dark portals and bringers of change, evolution/revolution and Chaos. There hardly exist any other organization practicing true Satanism, and the members of MLO have no interest in joining them either.

Do most of the members have a Black Metal background?

Noxifer: - Most of our members don't have a Black Metal background. Yet, there have been and still are those in MLO that through music spread our dark messages and the energies that we work with. It is through planting "the dark seed" in the unconscious of the masses that desired changes in the human psyche can be achieved. It is when the dark seed grows and come out in blossom that Chaos will flourish. Apperiatur terra, et germinet Chaos! On the whole, MLO has got nothing to do with Black Metal!

A lot of people playing in Black Metal bands claim to be Satanists and don't do anything more about it. Do they form a purpose or do you see them as sheep?

Noxifer: - We and other Anti-cosmic and traditional Satanists have always done what others only dare to sing, write and speak about. Satanism is the religion of the active. It has sadly enough for too long served the purposes of ignorant, and foremost cowardly, fools. What is dead serious to us, seems to be nothing but "exciting role-play" for others to use for selling their unmusical and worthless records. Still, there has always been a small core of serious Satanists who have been using music in order to spread our message and the disharmonic chaotic energies that they have channelled through their music. Music has always been used by Satanists to open the dark portals of consciousness. Today, there are bands in Sweden, Norway and Holland who through their music and lyrics channel the anti-cosmic energies that

MLO act as a portal to. Yet, 99 percent of the scene is completely worthless and has got nothing to do with true Satanism. Lay down your musical instruments and pick up your weapons. It is time for war!

Tenebris: - Speaking about Black Metal, I would like to state that Black Metal being "Satanic music" performed by "Satanists" is nothing but a great illusion. For example; how many of those involved in the black metal movement ten years ago still claim to be Satanists today? Let's leave this as an open question, ok! I guess we all know the answer anyway. By the way, how many of them were seriously involved in the practice of the black arts? Needless to say, Black Metal was and is in most cases nothing but just another superficial musical fashion. Hence, Black Metal has got nothing to do with the practice of real Satanism, except maybe its imagery to a certain extent, and 99 percent of the bands have no deeper meaning with it. Of course some were and are serious about their Satanic music, but they belong to the last one percent of the scene, and are obviously very rare. Therefore, we have no illusions whatsoever about the black metal scene, and even though some of our members have a Black Metal background our Order as such has got absolutely nothing to do with it.

Tenebris, you were involved in a rather successful band yourself. How come you became more interested in Satanism than (Black) Metal. How important is Metal to you these days?

Tenebris: - Music and Satanism are obviously two completely different things, but when it comes to my song writing being a Satanist naturally colours my music in an extraordinary dark manner. I see my music and lyrics as a way of expressing both my conscious and subconscious, giving praise to the dark. Thus, writing music for me is a spiritual experience. Something dark and sacred. However, I experienced a vast gap between what I personally was doing and what was actually happening around me with the torrent of Black Metal becoming just another fashion for human sheep wanting something "extreme" or "exciting" to indulge in. I was sick of all these so-called "Black Metal Satanists" letting music come in first place and Satanism in second, or third, or rather no place at all. When confronted, very few of these guys proved to have a sincere and genuine need or interest to experience the dark for real (Satanism, black magic and occultism). It was all just talk, at its best. I began to see through the masks these people were wearing and I figured I didn't have much in common with them after all. Disillusioned, I gradually outdistanced myself to this "scene", starting to cultivate a deeper relationship with Satanists of the more serious kind, forming a brotherhood dedicated to the sincere worship of Lucifer and the powers of Chaos. This, however, didn't mean that I stopped writing or listening to music. Of course I still enjoy all that. It rather meant that I came to focus on my magical studies/works and my journey on the left hand path together with brothers and sisters, whose black flame was burning just like mine.

Have you had a lot of people interested in joining who have chickened out?

Noxifer: - In the early days of MLO we came in touch with certain unworthy people who pretended to be something they never could be. When these scum, that we within our Order now humorously refer to as "the living dead", were exposed to different situations that could be a little dangerous, demanding and really Satanic, they turned their backs on the Order, by running away, telling too much about the activities of our Order to uninitiated and in certain cases even by testifying against certain members of the Order during various trials. However, these weak whores taught us to have a lot heavier demands on those who want to join the Order. By learning from our mistakes we became stronger. These unworthy traitors are of course familiar with the fact that there only is one punishment for infiltrators, traitors and those who consciously stand in our way. Yet, there are more important things to do than thinking about these unworthy pigs. These "living dead" will in course of time surely get to know the wrath of Alastor! "God " maybe forgives, but MLO don't! Dies irae, dies illa, solvet saeclum in favilla! Vocamus te aeshma-diva!

There are already a lot of so-called Satanic organizations out there, what makes MLO different?

Noxifer: - We don't agree at all with this statement, but we agree with the fact that there are many who claim to be "Satanists" and members of different "Satanic" organizations. The few serious Satanic Orders that exist are usually secret until some member makes a mistake and is arrested for some crime against the human laws. It is first then that these groups, against their will, attracts attention from the Judaeo-Christian media. A real Satanic Order can never, because of the nature of the Satanic work, be open to the public and it could never be possible to join such an Order only by paying a member fee. All humans are equally worthless, until they have proven the contrary. What makes MLO different to the organizations who claim to be Satanic, is that MLO truly is a Satanic organization. To the contrary of all worthless scum, we practice what we preach and do everything to reach our Satanic goals. No price is too high and all means are allowed. MLO is Anti-cosmic Satanism! We are the Satanic elite.

A lot of Satanic cults deny the existence of a personified Satan. Why do these people call themselves Satanists when they don't believe in that?

Noxifer: - MLO see Satan, Lucifer, Set, Apep, Kingu, Typhon, Ahriman, Samael, The black light, Angra Mainyu, Surt, Loke, Diabolus and Shaitan as some of the names describing the driving force of the raging Chaos, which counteract and fight the demiurge and the cosmic order. When the primal Chaos was defiled by the demiurge's existence and the order and stagnation he created, the power that, inter alia, is called Satan was the first anti-cosmic current emanating from the post-cosmic raging Chaos. This anti-cosmic emanation, which is our father Satan, was created by the raging Chaos to act as the antithesis to the demiurge and his creating of form from formlessness, light from darkness and order from chaos. Satan/Lucifer is the external and eternal aspect of the anti-cosmic and sinister impulses, which constitute the deepest essence of our inner black flames. As a result of this, we are through the inner portals of the black chaos fire forever linked and united with our lord Lucifer/Satan. Through us, parts of the power that is Satan have access to the cosmic plane, while this emanation that we call Satan (the first out of eleven anti-cosmic emanations) itself is based outside the barriers of cosmos and with its raging darkness prevent further expansion of cosmos. We are Satan's living portals that through our thoughts, feelings and actions channel his energies into cosmos, in that way poisoning and slowly killing the world's soul. In nomine Satan, ob-umbro anima mundi! Thus, Satan is both an inner and an external power whose existence is completely independent of the human psyche.

The names, symbols and myths that we use to describe the first offspring of the raging Chaos, are all human inventions in order to describe the indescribable, that we only can reach acquaintance with through true contact. But the power, that we call Satan, is much older than the human consciousness. Those who have been in spiritual contact with the energies of our father cannot deny his existence, and those who never have enjoyed the brilliant darkness and power of our father have neither any right to call themselves Satanists. The blind fools who call themselves Satanists without believing in the existence of the Satanic current, are misled lambs that we, the wolves of Satan, shall tear apart. Ad majorem Luciferi gloriam! The day of wrath draws near!"

Why is Christianity such a big target?

Noxifer: - Christianity is an equally big target as all other pro-cosmic and demiurge-worshipping religions. The people who gladly submit to the enslavement of the slave religions, like for instance Christianity, have completely melted together with the cosmic energies, and the black fire that once was burning inside their souls was extinguished a long time ago. The pro-cosmic religions serve the purposes of the demiurge and their function is to forever put out all black chaos flames that are burning within cosmos. This detestable world that we live in today is shaped by the moral values of the slave religions, and that fact alone should make all of those with the smallest ounce of a chaos fire inside to fight against these religions and burn all their houses of lies to ashes.

The demiurge, that by the pro-cosmic religions and their priests have been called Atum-Ra, Marduk, Jahve, Allah, Ahura-Mazda, Zeus and so on, make use of his priests similarly to the way that Satan make use of us. It is therefore important to fight these weak insects both physically and spiritually, and in Satan's name crush them. Christianity is an anti-evolutionary religion, with the objective of preventing the development of the strong, pulling them down to the level of the weak. Christianity is the opposite of everything that strengthens the spirit and is only good for killing what little that is beautiful, noble and honourable in this filthy world. The same goes for judaism and Islam. We therefore support everyone, who through their concrete actions, show their hatred against these filthy slave religions. Burn their churches and kill their priests!"

Is there an easy way to describe the belief of MLO?

Noxifer: - It is not possible for us to describe our convictions in a briefer way than we've already done in this interview, but it will soon be possible, for those who are interested in catching a glimpse into the Anti-cosmic Chaos Gnosticism and black magic of MLO, to order a handbook in Anti-cosmic Satanism. The book is called "Liber Azerate - The Book of the Raging Chaos" and it is written by MLO Grand Master, Frater Nemidial. It is scheduled for release the 31st of October 2002, for all those who wish to enter the path of the black dragon. For the first time the "forbidden rites" will be accessible, ready to awaken the black flame of Chaos inside the elect, elevating them to the thrones of darkness!

What is the main purpose for MLO and how realistic is that goal?

Noxifer: - The main purpose of MLO is anti-cosmic evolution. Also the fortification, and in some cases the reawakening, of the black flame of Chaos. Our goal is to unite the elect who consciously walk the path of the black dragon (the Transcendental Anti-cosmic Satanism). To concentrate the powers of the eternal black flame and burn further black holes in the world's soul (anima mundi) and the collective unconscious of mankind, to open new dark portals to Chaos, this way contributing to the beginning of the endless dark aeon and the invasion of cosmos by the disharmonic and sinister energies. Also, one of the most important goals of MLO is "Chaos gnosis" (wisdom/understanding of Chaos). It is only through interchange of thoughts and ideas with likeminded people as well as the study of the esoteric dark doctrines and the channelling of the anti-cosmic energies into one's own spirit, that we can reach wisdom and open the eyes of the blind dragon Tanin'iver and see through all cosmic lies, weaknesses and illusions, and in that way transcend order and become one with Chaos. MLO serve the wrath of the ancient gods and we prepare ourselves, by means of our spiritual work, for the final war when the eleven ones ultimately shall defeat the ten. When the inner darkness is strong enough to defeat both the internal and external light, the parts of the divine spark which are imprisoned inside the demiurge's creation will be set free. MLO intend to, by means of our work, strengthen the inner darkness of our members, this way darkening the world's soul. This goal is very realistic! As above, so below!"

What kind of rituals do you do? How often is that organized?

Noxifer: - MLO perform both ceremonial and hermetic rituals, with the purpose of bringing about such changes, with the dark, sinister and chaotic energies that are generated, concentrated and directed, that corresponds to the will of our Order and the dark gods. MLO use the power of the will and the anti-cosmic current to obtain both spiritual and worldly power, and also to remove all obstacles that the forces of the light might place in our way. In general, most of the rituals and ceremonies of MLO derive from the Sumerian chaos gnosticism, the Draconian Setianism and the Kliffotic black magic.

For example we practice rituals of invocation to become possessed by our demonic gods and acquaint with their wisdom and power. We practice rituals of evocation to call forth and manifest the dark and anti-cosmic energies on the physical plane. We practice rituals of purification to banish the unwanted and weakening energies with which the light attack us. We practice rituals of initiation to initiate different stages of the burning path and to bring us together with different magickal currents. We practice power rituals to strengthen the spirit and to awaken the black dragon (the black kundalini). We practice rituals of malediction to weaken, torment, drive insane, vampirise, punish and kill our enemies.

According to ancient tradition, blood rituals are also practiced within the Anti-cosmic Satanism. Vast amounts of energies (i.e. the life-force) can be directed to different purposes. For example; to fortify a specific current or keeping the energy inside a talisman. Giving away the energy as a gift to one of the dark gods, this way strengthening its manifestation on the physical plane, or using the energy to make new cracks in the astral barriers to open new dark portals. Blood rituals also serve many other purposes. Like for example; building strength of character and a strong identification with the dark powers in those who practice these rituals. Letting them come in true contact with darkness, this way contributing to the eclipse of their souls and the strengthening of their Satanic predator mentality. It is this mentality that separates man from the superhuman and the hunter from the prey. Even lesser blood rituals can be used, and are most often so during these rituals, but then the released energies are not as strong.

We also want to state that all so-called Satanists who deny blood rituals as a part of the true Satanism are false and ignorant fools who don't have a clue of what they're talking about. Satanism is all about crossing borders and about developing into a god of darkness. To be able to reach this state the Satanist must both have the ability to create and to destroy.

MLO also practices other kinds of rituals and ceremonies, in accordance to the Satanic will and the black flame, to effect such changes in the world that further support our Order and the anti-cosmic evolution on a large scale. These rituals are held as often as it's necessary, and being Anti-cosmic Satanists we, for example, don't find it necessary to wait for any meaningless pagan feast to hold our black rites, but practice our dark art/science whenever we wish to do so. Si libet, liket!"

What was the story on MLO and The True Satanist Horde, what was the link there?

Tenebris: - The True Satanist Horde had, contrary to its name, unfortunately nothing to do with real Satanism and its practice. They of course claimed to be Satanists but just playing black metal, wearing corpse paint and inverted crosses doesn't, however, make a Satanist. It was all just a lot of talk and they had gotten away with that for years. So when MLO had formed back in '95 we asked the guys if they were interested in the real deal. Obviously they were not!

How important was the link to the Norwegian Inner Circle?

Tenebris: - Personally, I can say that it meant a lot as long as it lasted. Back then, in 1991, things mainly concerned black metal and ideological Satanism (not so much practical Satanism, but anyway...) and we were all burning for it! Like the most natural thing the Black Circle (or the Inner Circle if you like) was formed, and the plans were huge! It grew quickly to become some sort of black metal army. It was however rather poorly organized and kind of stood and fell with Euronymous and his shop. Therefore, it vanished with his death in '93 and all arrests at that time. Anyhow, these years were somewhat intense and I can look back on them with a smile on my lips. Sadly enough, many people involved at the time betrayed their ideals and lost their interest when things fell apart. Like it was nothing more than a hype of temporary nature.

An interesting story is the one about IT (Abruptum/Ophthalamia), who was at one time running The True Satanist Horde. There are so many rumours concerning him. That he chickened out and left for Finland. Do you know anything about that?

Noxifer: - Life is full of disappointments and the situation you're asking about was one of them. Don't ask the devil for a dance if you're not prepared to dance until death!

Are there any organizations that MLO support or even work together with?

Noxifer: - One year after some MLO members ended up in prison, an outlaw organisation and brotherhood called Werewolf Legion was formed. WL, which consists mainly of non-Satanists, has a close collaboration with MLO and even though most of its members aren't Satanists, they are all warriors, outlaws and misanthropes. F.T.L! There are also plans to start up WL in Norway and Holland, for it is in these countries (besides Sweden) that MLO is established. The only Satanic organization that we support is O.N.A. and its subsections. We also support a certain American "Order of vampires" that, to the contrary of all silly "role-play-vampires", practice true vampirism. Besides these "occult" organizations we also support all true outlaw organizations. Hail MLO! Hail WL! Hail Satan!

MLO

Misanthropic Legion

EXUMER - SUN DESCENDS

Back in the glory days of German fucking Thrash there was this fucking killer band called EXUMER. EXUMER released two albums in the shape of "Possessed By Fire" and "Rising From The Sea". Both fine examples of Thrash masterpieces., and especially the debut "Possessed By Fire" is a true gem. EXUMER was a bit more influenced by the extreme scene of American bands. You can find plenty of both EXODUS and SLAYER in EXUMER. Nothing bad with that I assure you. I got hold of original bass player Mem who played and did vocals on the first LP "Possessed By Fire" only. Mem is also fronting the up and coming Thrash monster SUN DESCENDS. More of that as the interview goes on.

I think we might as well start with EXUMER and then progress towards SUN DESCENDS. OK? First of all, you only appeared on the somewhat legendary "Possessed By Fire" LP by them. Tell me, how did you get involved in this band in the first place?

- In 1985 I was looking to form a band after I had been involved with my first project in 1984. Summer 1985 I was asked to work as part of the local road crew at the first SLAYER show in Frankfurt, this show and the German leg of SLAYER'S first European tour were promoted by Matthias Prill (VENOM'S LEGIONS - Germany). There at the show I noticed a guy with very long hair- another local crew member- messing around with some guitar racks, Ray Mensch. I asked him if he played guitar and about his favourite bands. We talked for a while and he agreed to come out to the town where I used to live for rehearsals. This is how the band started, I brought in our drummer at the time and Ray brought in Bernie, the second guitarist. Summer 1985 we started rehearsing at my father's junkyard in Wiesbaden, Germany.

Tell me about the demos the band did before the first LP?

- We only did one demo "A Mortal In Black" end of 1985. I had good contacts to the German Metal press because at the time I used to work for magazines, on a freelance basis, conducting interviews with English speaking bands (mainly American/British), therefore we could easily place the demo for reviews. At the time we thought that doing one demo might be enough to score a record deal. It took a little more in the end. We played some gigs and brought in people with connections to finally score.

EXUMER signed a deal with a label called DISASTER who besides EXUMER also signed ANGEL DUST. This was a previous punk label was it not?

- DISASTER was an offshoot of A.M. MUSIC, it was designed to feature Thrash and Metal acts. You are right though, the main source for A.M. Music were punk/hardcore acts.

So how come you signed with this somehow small label? Wasn't there any interest from NOISE or STEAMHAMMER or even ROADRUNNER who released so many of the classic albums back then?

- We had relatively little response from other labels after the demo. Thomas Ziegler, head of A.M. MUSIC, came and checked us out at our 2nd show ever in Frankfurt. We opened for WARFARE from the U.K. and another DISASTER RECORDS act at the time. He loved the band, its energy, look, power and so he made as an offer

Tell me about the recordings of this first LP, were you an in-experienced band you felt or did the studio work flow fine?

- We were very in-experienced. We had no idea how different it would be to record in a professional studio, for two weeks with a well-known Thrash producer. Those two weeks were an immense learning process for the band and also quite turbulent. After all, we came out of those two weeks as much better musicians.

How was it to record this LP in the studio, was it like you imagined it to be or was it different? What surprised you most by being in the studio?

- It was quite different from what we had imagined. Harris Johns was totally in command and that was good. He knew what to do and how to put our songs on tape. The most surprising thing was that we thought we would have some knowledge about our own music but came to find out that we only knew the half about the songs. The real deal was discovered during the recording and mixing process.

How big were EXUMER exactly after the release of this "Possessed By Fire" LP?

- The band definitely made a big impression on the Thrash world at the time. Our sound was very much oriented at North American acts and the press and everyone else was making comparisons with EXODUS and other American acts. We were on our way to become quite an important factor in the Thrash scene of back in the day.

For me you had the same sort of status like DARKNESS, ASSASSIN, IRON ANGEL and so on, do you agree with this?

- I kind of disagree, because of several reasons but most importantly we differed in sound. Our sound was completely rooted in the U.S. tradition of song writing and guitar riffing. The bands you mentioned were all great bands in their own right but I think we created a sound that was very appealing internationally. People from all over the globe did not really know where we actually came from. That was because of our sound.

Well, I wasn't really saying you sounded like those German bands but I was thinking more of the status of the band. Anyway, how do you view "Possessed By Fire" these days, do you see it as a classic yourself?

- As a musician who was involved creating the record it is always difficult to actually view the album. I know that at the time we were very young, totally into doing just this band and that we felt every note on this album was important to us and meaningful. This feeling of honest, real emotion, may it be aggression or any other feeling, still exists. Whenever I listen to the record these days, I know that it was a true expression of what we felt at the time. So therefore I understand that it can mean a lot of those same feelings to other people who picked it up back then.

You left EXUMER around the release of "Possessed By Fire", what was the reason for that? Did you ever regret that you left the band?

- I only played the first three shows with the band and shortly before the release of "Possessed By Fire" I left the group. We were all very young at the time and since I had started the band I was very proud and not aware that I was egotistic. Instead of pulling the band together as a combined effort, I only saw myself in the centre. It was a very exciting time; I thought I was in love. I used to party a lot and not really practice my skills as a musician. Then it all came to a head and I simply left. I do not regret leaving the band but if I would have stayed, I truly believe we could have left a bigger mark in thrash history.

What do you think of the 2nd LP "Rising From The Sea"?

- I like some of the songs from the second album but I think the biggest problem is the sound. There wasn't enough time to really produce this album and therefore a lot of the material did not turn out as well. It is another feel than the first record and I think many people felt they were ready for something else

After this there was so many rumours about EXUMER so maybe you can finally tell me exactly what happened after the 2nd LP? We heard about suicides and so on can you please tell me what was going on?

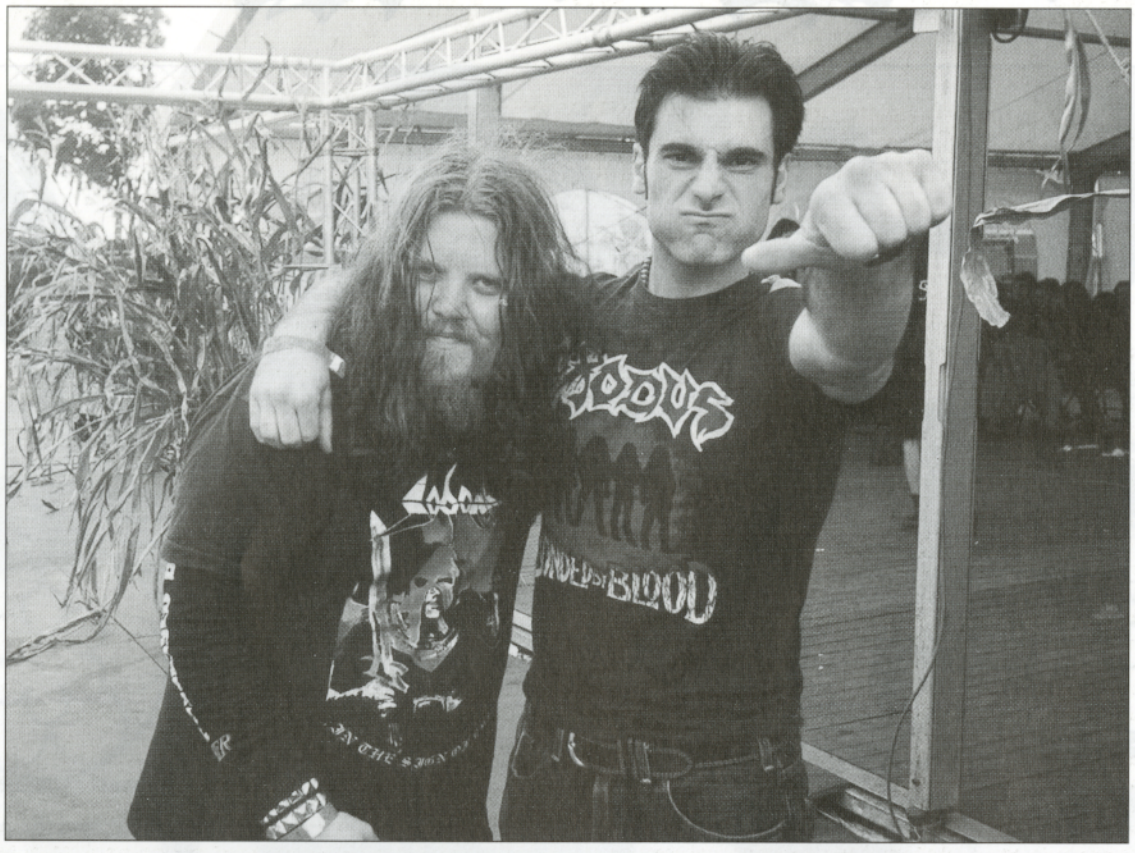
- There were no suicides or anything remotely like that. I left the band and shortly after that I moved to the states for the first time. They continued with a new singer, Paul A. and released the second album. Paul is a Hawaiian born U.S. citizen and he also was a family member of an U.S. forces military family. His father's time was up in Germany and because of his closeness to his parents he decided to move back to the states, which left EXUMER without a vocalist for the 2nd time. They found another one, John Cadden, but they failed to score a new deal after recording two demos with John. The tour with NASTY SAVAGE and ATOMKRAFT was financially a disaster and our only manager, Matthias Prill, left Germany with some debt and moved to Brazil. So the band slowly dissolved.

So this brings us to the current situation, you have re-formed EXUMER to play some festivals, tell me about how this happened?

- Last year on my summer vacation I was invited by some of my old ROCK HARD friends to join them for the Wacken show. I accepted the invitation and went up there to hang out. As the festival unfolded all kinds of people from record companies and magazines heard that the old EXUMER front man was visiting the show. I was hanging out with the METAL BLADE guys and numerous magazine people and everyone was asking if I would consider putting the band together for a reunion show in Wacken. At that time I was and still am living in New York and I thought if we do this thing it would have to be a one-time deal. So I agreed to think about but I also felt that everyone was really into the old band, especially the "Possessed By Fire" period and no one had ever seen the band in the original line up, remember I left after only three shows. Ray, Bernie and my self were still friends and had another band together during the '90ies. So there was no problem there, I called up the guys after the Wacken show and we decided to do it one more time.

Why do you want to bring back EXUMER now - what do you want to prove with this re-union?

- There is nothing to prove, it is a thank you to all the people who like the old stuff and it is for everyone to have FUN!!!



Metalion & Mem Von Stein at Wacken!

So give us your impressions of performing at the Wacken festival.

- I thought it was an excellent event even though I heard a few people complain about the size (it has got bigger than ever!) I thought it was very cool. It was an honour for us to play there and I thought it went down quite smooth. The fact that THE HAUNTED played before us and that SAXON were on while we played was a challenge but I think we pulled it off ok. Our stage concept is/was that the bands stays kind of stationary while I deliver the show. Since with this line-up, contrary to SUN DESCENDS where I play bass and sing, I have more freedom to really deliver a full physical show. Some people told me that the rest of the band does not look very Metal at all, all I can say is that the two guitarists are over 30 years old and I do not tell people what to wear. I'm in a Thrash Metal band (SUN DESCENDS) and I listen to extreme Metal music. The other guys are into lighter, other stuff and therefor they might not look a certain way. But they love playing the old material and that is what counts the most. Wacken was important for me because it also was my official return to the Metal world and it gave me a lot of opportunity to connect with people and push SUN DESCENDS. We will be playing our first show with SUN DESCENDS around Halloween with our friends HEMLOCK. I think that will og down in New Jersey.

Would you consider releasing some new material under the EXUMER name?

- I do not believe in reuniting the band under the pretence for one show and then to turn around and cash in. I guess it could work but I do believe that my full time project in New York will satisfy everyone who is into old school thrash metal. So no new material coming your way from the EXUMER camp!

It seems like the band was always pretty big in Brazil and it was planned for you to do a gig there with DESTRUCTION, tell me more about this?

- The band was big in Brazil because "Possessed By Fire" was one of the few albums that was regularly released over there in the '80ies. The kids did not have to pay any extra import prices to purchase the album. DESTRUCTION will not be playing with us this time around. I spoke with Schmier at the FULL FORCE show and he explained to me the whole situation. They are about to release their new album and they want to promote it over there with a complete South American tour. We will be playing one or two shows in Brazil and that's that, too few for DESTRUCTION. They are very cool guys and friends - old school pioneers.

I have a CD from WOODSTOCK RECORDS in Brazil with both the EXUMER albums on one CD. Is that an official release?

- Our old manager, who lives in Brazil, asked us if he could release the albums. We said yes and therefore you received that copy. It was a semi official release, without our input in terms of presentation. My old friend Oliver Klemm, HIGH VAULTAGE RECORDS, will be re-releasing the two records separately in July and August of this year. They will look incredible and will include mega bonus material and liner notes.

Well, you have a new band now, SUN DESCENDS. Tell me more about that.

- I moved to New York at the end of 1998 to study there, I also have a lot of family there. My uncle, great uncle, aunt, great aunt and cousins are all from there. Shortly after my move I met John Monsees, our guitarist in Sun Descends, in a record store. We became friends and played around with the idea to form a thrash band because of all the stuff we love from back in the days. It took us a good while to realize the project because when you live in a place like New York you have to deal with another 8 million people everyday.

It is a bit strange with you bringing back EXUMER and unleash SUN DESCENDS at the same time. Why do you do that at the same time?

- The time factor was just a coincidence, we found our drummer almost a year after we made our decision to form a band. I also had to leave to Germany for almost two months of EXUMER rehearsals and we thought it would be a good thing to have some promo material ready before I leave.**Well, there was a pretty long time from the split from EXUMER to you formed SUN DESCENDS. I heard you were also involved in a rap Metal band, is that true?**

- The first time I moved to the states was around 1987/88 and I was introduced to hard rap/hip hop like N.W.A. and PUBLIC ENEMY, who were at their prime at the time. I played in a Thrash band called DIABOLOS in New York (up-state N.Y.) and then upon my return in Germany I was starting a band called: PHOBIC INSTINCT. That project mutated into a band called :OF RYTES and finally me and Ray and Bernie (ex EXUMER guitarist) founded HUMUNGOUS FUNGUS! All along I was listening to hardcore Rap and when we decided to form HUMUNGOUS FUNGUS, I was so into the whole rap thing (5 years deep) that I decided to lean toward a rap influenced and dominated vocal style. It was something that I had to try and we produced one album for NOISE RECORDS and one for EPIC/DRAGNET (SONY). This was something that I needed to go through so that I eventually could go back to my thrash roots and totally find my self as a THRASH MUSICIAN. This might sound like a form of betrayal to some people but you have to remember that I grew up as a person among three different cultures: Turkish, American and German. I am someone who is not ashamed of whom he is not nor do I feel sorry for any form of expression I used at some point in time. The most important thing is that I am, and always be a real person. Just remember, I bought the first VENOM album when it came out and I listened to METALLICA and HELLHAMMER demos before they had any album releases.

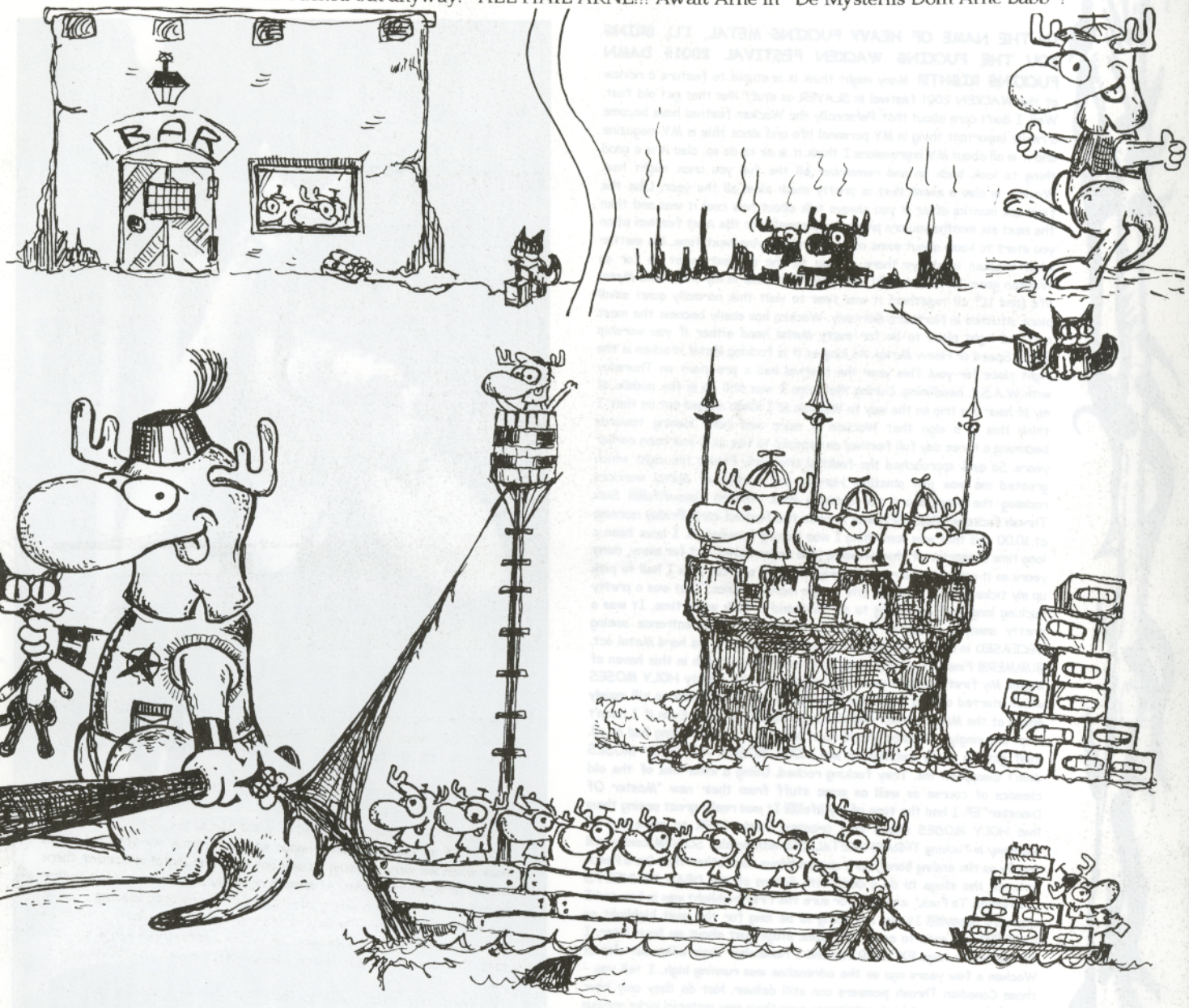
Why did you move to New York in the first place?
- I moved to New York to study an in order to re-invent my life. At the end of the HUMUNGOUS FUNGUS project SONY MUSIC had paid for us to record our 3rd album but never released it. I was very frustrated but I also felt that I had to go back to school. It was something that come from my inside and also my family in the states strongly encouraged me to move there and go back to school. I'm very happy about making this decision and I do not regret it a bit!

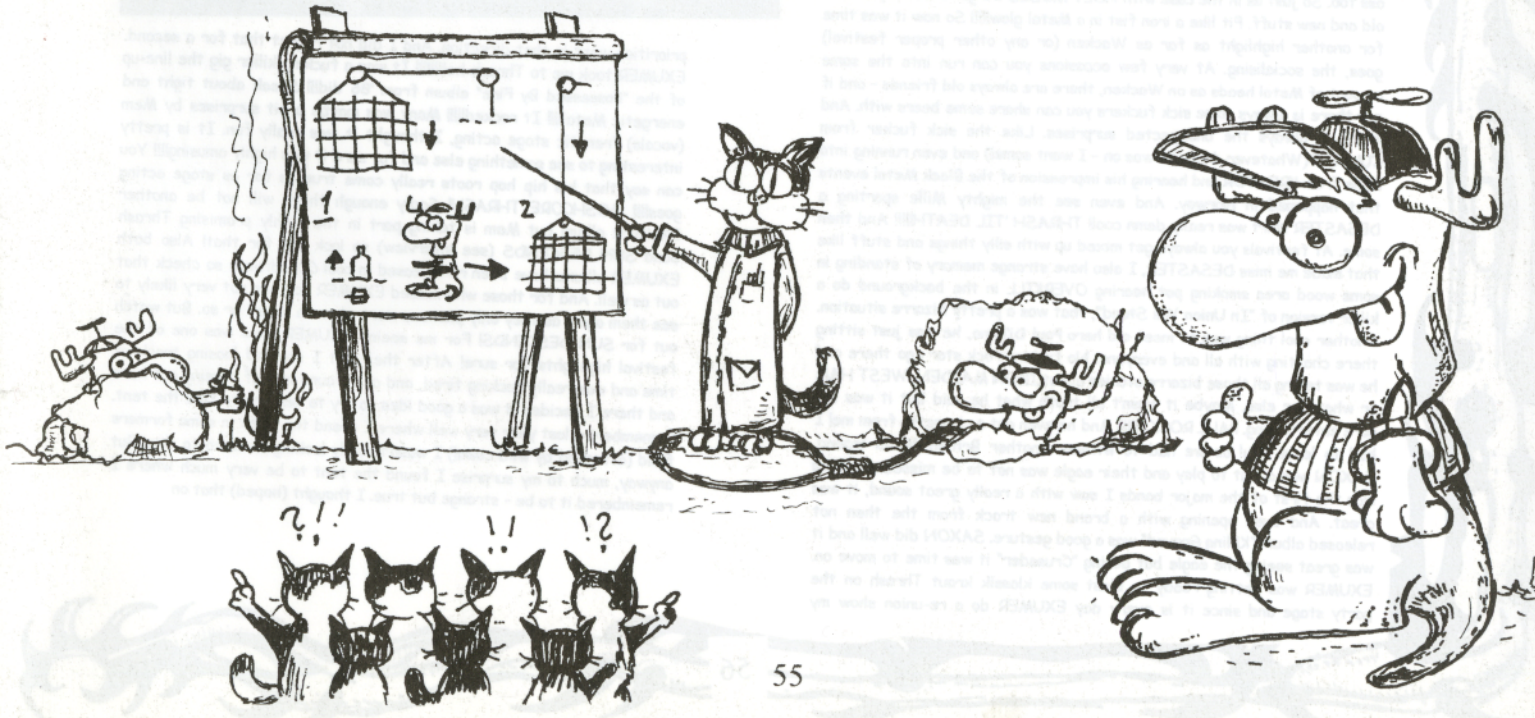
I was for sure very positively surprised by the quality of the SUN DESCENDS demo! KICK ASS THRASH METAL!!!! How do you view the future for SUN DESCENDS? How far do you want to take this project?
- The future of SUN DESCENDS depends on all those people who say that they are old school and who believes in pure Thrash Metal music. There is no way for us to pull this one off by ourselves. We need the help and support of all the true Metal heads who still check out for real stuff. Back when we were growing up and got into this Metal movement there was a feeling of revolution, of something really big. We need that feeling to return. Not in the meaning of stagnation or nostalgic ideology, but of the spirit and energy. The soul is what is missing nowadays. I think we could take SUN DESCENDS very far, not in a commercial sense but as a band that can prove that the aggression and fury of the '80ies was no joke.

The band is a trio, do you feel that is the best format for a aggressive Metal outfit?
- The trio thing is a classic line-up and it is very compact as a unit. Think of all the great bands from way back when, they were almost all trios. There is another reason for this as well: a shortage of people who are into the same sound and ideas as we are in New York City.

GALLERY OF ARNE BABB

When I was putting this issue together I found out I had whole bunch of Arne Babb leftovers. As you should know Arne is no leftover material so I put them in this free page. What was supposed to be here was only an advert from a label that backed out anyway. ALL HAIL ARNE!!! Await Arne in "De Mysteriis Dom Arne Babb"!



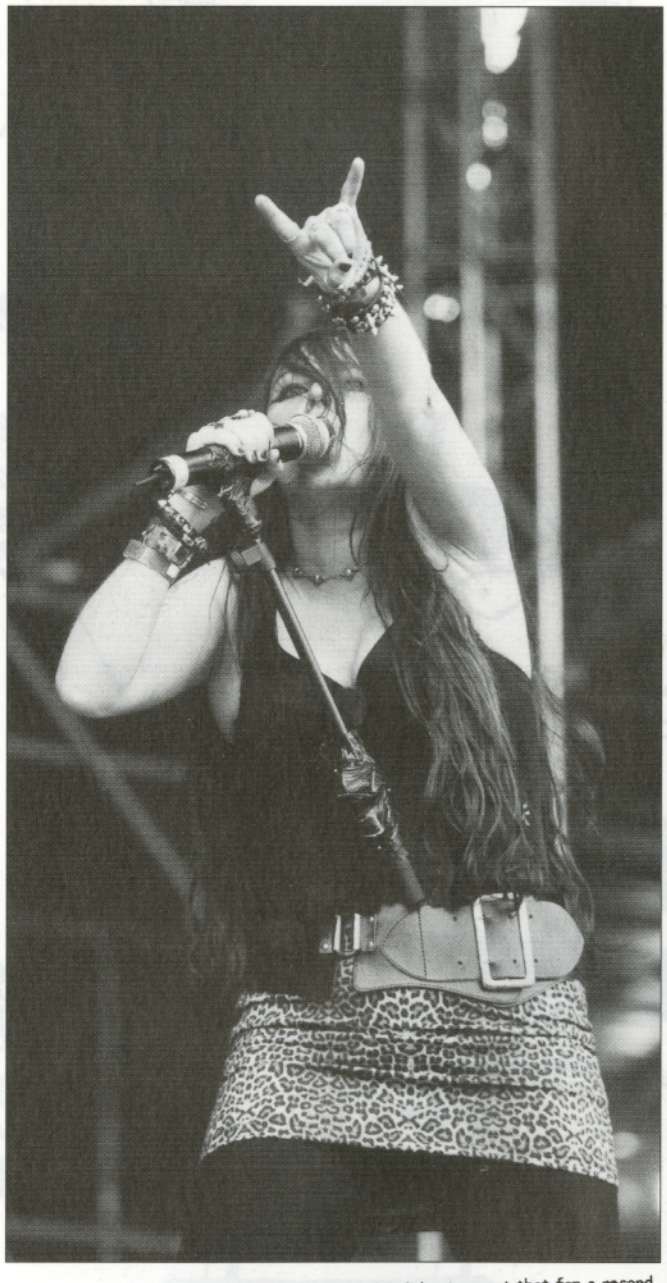


WACKEN 2001

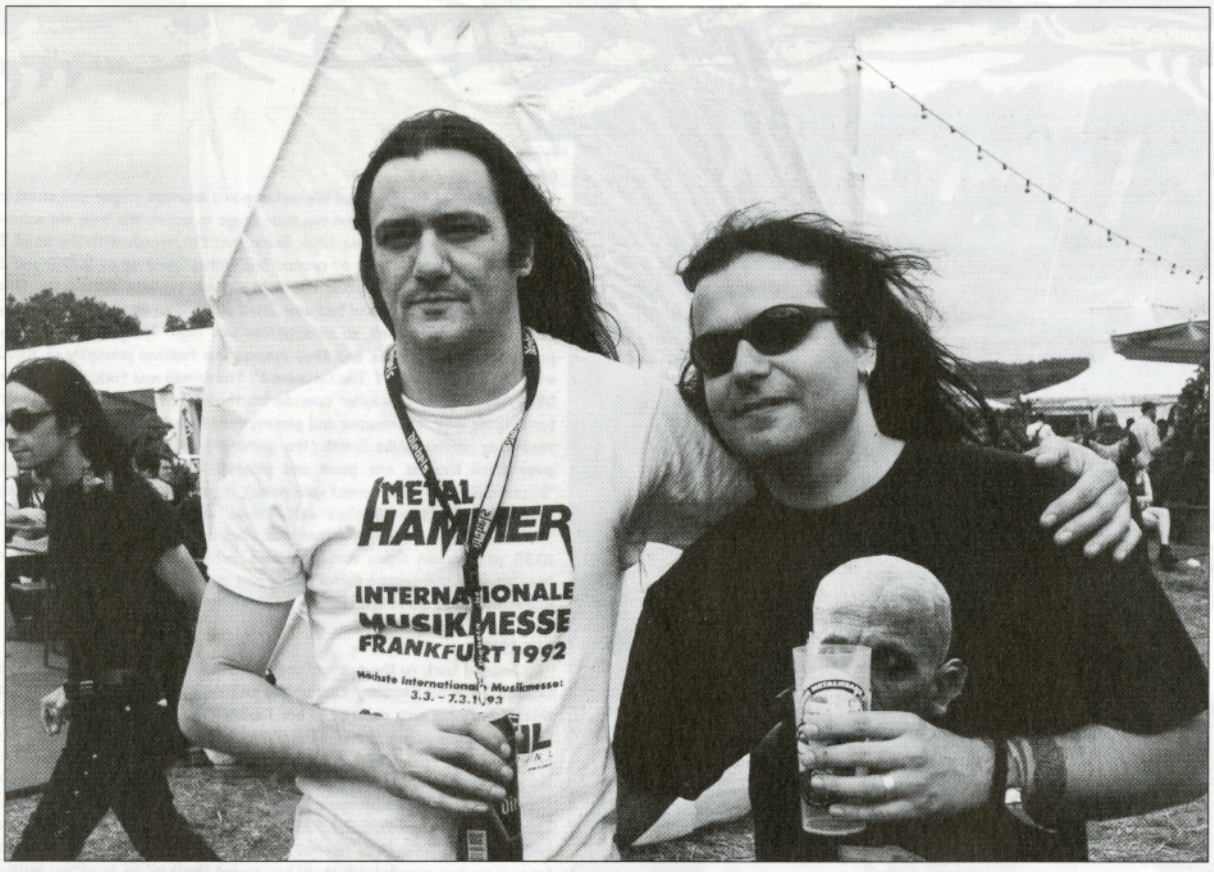
THE RETURN OF THE METAL TYRANTS!

A never-ending tale of booze, drugs and fukking Metal worship!

IN THE NAME OF HEAVY FUCKING METAL, I'LL BRING YOU THE FUCKING WACKEN FESTIVAL 2001!! DAMN FUCKING RIGHT!!! Many might think it is stupid to feature a review of the WACKEN 2001 festival in SLAYER as stuff like that get old fast. Well, I don't care about that. Personally the Wacken festival have become a really important thing in MY personal life and since this is MY magazine and it is all about MY impressions I think it is ok to do so, also it is a good thing to look back on and remember all the fun you once might had. Wacken is also a event that is pretty much alive all the year. Like the first six months after it you always talk about how cool it was and then the next six months you are preparing yourself for the next festival when you start to know about some of the bands playing next time. No matter what Wacken is always there. So on to the current event as far as Wacken goes: WACKEN 2001, for the fifth time in my miserable Metal life (and 11th all together) it was time to visit this normally quiet small place situated in Northern Germany. Wacken has easily become the most cult and right place to be for every Metal head either if you worship Black, Speed or Heavy Metal. As long as it is fucking Metal Wacken is the right place for you! This year the festival had a pre-start on Thursday with W.A.S.P. headlining. During that time I was still on in the middle of my 16 hour bus trip on the way to Wacken so I kinda missed out on that. I think this is a sign that Wacken is more and more leaning towards becoming a three day full festival as opposed to two as it has been earlier years. So as I approached the festival cite early Friday the sight which greeted me was just amazing! Hordes and hordes of Metal warriors roaming the streets and the camping area. Ahhhhh -beautiful!!!!! Sick Thrash fuckers DECEASED was to open the festival early Friday morning at 10.00 and that was something I was looking forward to. I have been a long time supporter of this awesome (and under-rated) act for many, many years so it was going to rock. Anyway, as I had a press pass I had to pick up my ticket at the opposite cite as the main entrance. That was a pretty fucking long walk according to my feet and it took some time. It was a pretty annoying thing to be stuck outside the main entrance seeing DECEASED in a very far distance doing their job as a die hard Metal act. BUMMER!!! Finally I got my ticket and was able to reach in this haven of Metal. My first highlight was then going to be the mighty HOLY MOSES which started around 14.00. So that was a couple of hours to kill mainly spend at the Metal market and also some alcohol intakes. Even if I hadn't slept one singly second on the 16 hour bus trip I wasn't feeling bad at all. Just getting really excited to see HOLY MOSES. And HOLY MOSES didn't disappoint me. They fucking rocked. Doing a killer mix of the old classics of course as well as some stuff from their new "Master Of Disaster" EP. I had the time of my life!!!!!! It was really great seeing them live! HOLY MOSES shows that greatest music EVER to come out of Germany is fucking THRASH METAL! (Something also SODOM confirmed totally as the ending band!) As a special bonus none other than Doro Pesch entered the stage to do a duet with Sabina of the DEAD KENNEDY'S "Too Drunk To Fuck" classic - for sure the first highlight was in box and I was very happy!!!!!! It was not going to be long for the next highlight as EXCITER was soon to enter the same stage just about an hour later. I always been a huge EXCITER fan and I remember their killer set also at Wacken a few years ago so the adrenaline was running high. I tell you - those Canadian Thrash pioneers can still deliver. Not do they only have one of the strongest back catalogues ever their new material kicks serious ass too. So just as in the case with HOLY MOSES we got a healthy mix of old and new stuff. Fit like a iron fist in a Metal glow!!!!! So now it was time for another highlight as far as Wacken (or any other proper festival) goes, the socialising. At very few occasions you can run into the same amount of Metal heads as on Wacken, there are always old friends - and if not there is always some sick fuckers you can share some beers with. And there is always the unexpected surprises. Like the sick fucker from CULPRIT (Whatever drugs he was on - I want some!) and even running into Mille from KREATOR and hearing his impression of the Black Metal events that happened in Norway. And even see the mighty Mille sporting a DESASTER shirt was really damn cool! THRASH 'TIL DEATH!!!!!! And then some. At festivals you always get mixed up with silly things and stuff like that made me miss DESASTER. I also have strange memory of standing in some wood area smoking pot hearing OVERKILL in the background do a killer version of "In Union We Stand", that was a pretty bizarre situation. Another cool thing was to meet old hero Paul Di'anno, he was just sitting there chatting with all and everyone. No fucking rock star ego there and he was telling all those bizarre stories about IRON MAIDEN, WEST HAM or whatever else. Maybe it wasn't all truth what he said but it was for sure entertaining. PAUL ROCKS!!!!!! And he even got a cigarette from me! I had to leave Paul as we had to witness another British Metal legend. SAXON was about to play and their eagle was not to be missed. SAXON was the first of the major bands I saw with a really great sound, it was great. And even opening with a brand new track from the then not released album "Killing Ground" was a good gesture. SAXON did well and it was great seeing the eagle but during "Crusader" it was time to move on. EXUMER was getting ready to blast some klassik kraut Thrash on the party stage and since it is every day EXUMER do a re-union show my



priorities went in that direction. And I did not regret that for a second. EXUMER took me to Thrash hell!!!!!!! It was a fucking killer gig the line-up of the "Possessed By Fire" album from '86 did!!!! Speak about tight and energetic Metal!!!!! It rocked!!!!! Many was maybe a bit surprises by Mem (vocals) frenetic stage acting, I thought it was really fun. It is pretty interesting to see something else and for sure it was highly amusing!!!! You can say that his hip hop roots really come true as far as stage acting goes!!!! MOSHCORE THRASH! Sadly enough there will not be another EXUMER album but Mem is taking part in the highly promising Thrash band SUN DESCENDS (see interview) so look out for that! Also both EXUMER albums have been re-released in cool CD editions so check that out as well. And for those who missed EXUMER you are not very likely to see them again as they only plan one more show in Brazil or so. But watch out for SUN DESCENDS! For me seeing EXUMER, this was one of the festival highlights for sure! After their set I started loosing track of time and was really fucking tired, and as I found myself passing out here and there I decided it was a good idea to try to venture to find the tent. Remembering last year very well where I spend the night in some farmers field (attacked by wild cows!) I wasn't really looking forward to this. But anyway, much to my surprise I found the tent to be very much where I remembered it to be - strange but true. I thought (hoped) that on



Saturday I was going to get up early to catch WARHAMMER and DESTROYER 666, two bands I happen to love very much but it seemed like I was more tired than I first thought so I ended up missing both. Saturday was to become another day of booze, confusion and fuck ups. Again I went to the Metal market to spend more of my money. (Yes, I still regret I didn't by the "After The Attack" picture disc by KREATOR damn it! It better be there next year and it better have a lower price tag than 200 DM!) And then it was going to be ARTCH - at least I thought so! It isn't every day a Metal band from my native Sarpsborg gets to play Wacken so I was really looking forward to see this Sarpsborgian Metal sensation play the material from their two albums "Another Return" and "For The Sake Of Mankind" at Wacken. The problems started when ANNIHILATOR was stuck in a traffic jam on the way from Hamburg and they had to get ARTCH's original spot 17.30 at the party stage. ARTCH was moved to 21.30 at the wet stage which is a much smaller venue outside the main area. "Fine" I thought, "I'll still see them!" Then what happened was that they got moved again to an even earlier spot without me knowing it so I missed the bloody thing. GREAT! So as I been strolling the festival cite getting short glimpses of JAG PANZER, TANKARD and GRAVE DIGGER the lads of ARTCH already played! Bummer!!!!! I was extremely pissed off!!!!! ARGHHHHHH!!!!!!! The only relief was that I at least I saw TANKARD doing their alcoholic Thrash and even with guest vocals done by Sabina Classen so things wasn't that bad... But that's the thing with festivals, there are so many bands playing and so many bands you want to see. I think it is better to have a more relaxed atmosphere and go with the flow and taker things as they come. Of course it is important to see the essential bands but, as far as I'm concerned it is about having a good time, catch in the vibe. Not about seeing as many bands as possible. I thought it would be pretty interesting to see the Italian legends DEATH SS fronted by the man with the biggest ego at the entire festival, Mr. Steve Sylvester. To tell you the truth there is plenty of DEATH SS stuff I'm not familiar but it was a great thing seeing this man in the flesh. He was quite a spectacular front man - the beast himself! The band itself looked like a mix of RAMSTEIN and MARYLIN MANSON clones but at least the music was better, some interesting stage action as well. MOTORHEAD is a band I seen on numerous occasions and as far as I'm concerned Lemmy and company still deliver high octane rock & roll of first class. The special thing this time was the return of the classic bomber stage show. And believe me it looked awesome!!!!!! MOTORHEAD is the essence of rock & roll aggression. Yeah, all the classics sounded good and personally I never get sick of "Ace Of Spades" and "Overkill"! Maybe it wasn't the easiest thing in the world for the gods SODOM to follow up MOTORHEAD only a few minutes after MOTORHEAD ended their show. SODOM was the main attraction for me and maybe a die hard fan like me isn't easy to please. When SODOM entered the stage all the tiredness was washed away from my body. It was a beautiful sight!!!! SODOM in its full glory!!!!! This was the 20th anniversary for SODOM so it was bound to be some surprises. And as the rumours said Grave Violator from the good old days was resurrected back to life to re-join the SODOM glory. It was such a special thing to see him on stage with Angel Ripper and co. Of course we were to witness a lot of the classic SODOM stuff. SODOM rocked and what a perfect way to end a almost perfect festival. And as DEATH IN JUNE once perfectly said "**Festival ends, like festival do**" but what a perfect ending. I knew I had the terrible bus trip in front of me but it didn't matter at all. I seen SODOM - life can end now!!!!!!! THANK YOU WACKEN!!!! I will be back!!!! And on a different note; another thing that was better this year was the security, in the last years certain members of the security staff seemed to take their work a tad too serious and being busy being assholes, but as far as I could see that was not a problem this year. Thing ran smoothly and no major delays or problems to get in and out. So a short conclusion: **Best bands:** *HOLY MOSES, EXCITER, EXUMER and SODOM.* **Biggest disappointment:** *Missing ARTCH, DESTROYER 666, DESASTER, WARHAMMER and not buying the KREATOR picture disc.* **Biggest non musical highlight:** *Tyrant's blue tongue.(it was a you have to be there kind of thing!)* **Strange but cool experience:** *Smoking pot in the woods and hearing OVERKILL do "In Union We Stand" in the distance.* Rumours are already circulating with NIFELHEIM at Wacken 2002 and DARKTHRONE 2003. There are still plenty of activities to look forward to as far as Wacken goes!!!!! Thanks to all who made this such a killer event for me, to mention some: *Ylva & Paulo at STATIC AGE with friends, Hellbutcher and Tyrant of NIFELHEIM, Mem of EXUMER, Sascha Sir Lord Doom, Angel Ripper of SODOM, that nutcase singer from CULPRIT, King & Mike of DECEASED (where the hell did you disappear to anyway?), Sabina Classen of HOLY MOSES, everyone from the Editorial staff of the Norwegian SCREAM MAGAZINE, Paul Di'anno, Mille Petrozza of KREATOR, Keith of DESTROYER 666, David of IN AETERNUM, Mia of DRACENA, Sova of BARATHRUM and all the other Suomi Metal bastards, Johan of SOUL REAPER, the organisers of Wacken of course for doing such a splendid event, HAIL FUCKING HAIL! various members of DARKTHRONE, BLOODTHORN, WARHAMMER, DESASTER, ARTCH, Gro Narvestad, Ann Frestad, HELLION RECORDS, ANCIENT ARTS and all other fucked up Metal heads I had the pleasure of meeting.* Also members of BLASPHEMY (!) where running amok at the festival but sadly enough I did not catch up with them! But how fucking cool isn't that anyway? Get ready - WACKEN 2002 here I come!!!!! THANK YOU!!!! Since I pretty much missed out on all the D bands (DECEASED, DESTROYER 666 and DESASTER) I got Metal warrior Blizzard Beast to give you a quick rundown of these acts. (Actually, he wrote a review of the whole festival but with his permission I edited out the other stuff and concentrated on those three killer acts!)

Wacken pictures © Håkon Grav Scream magazine!
Left: Sabina Classen of HOLY MOSES
Above: Angel Ripper & Mille backstage

W:O:A

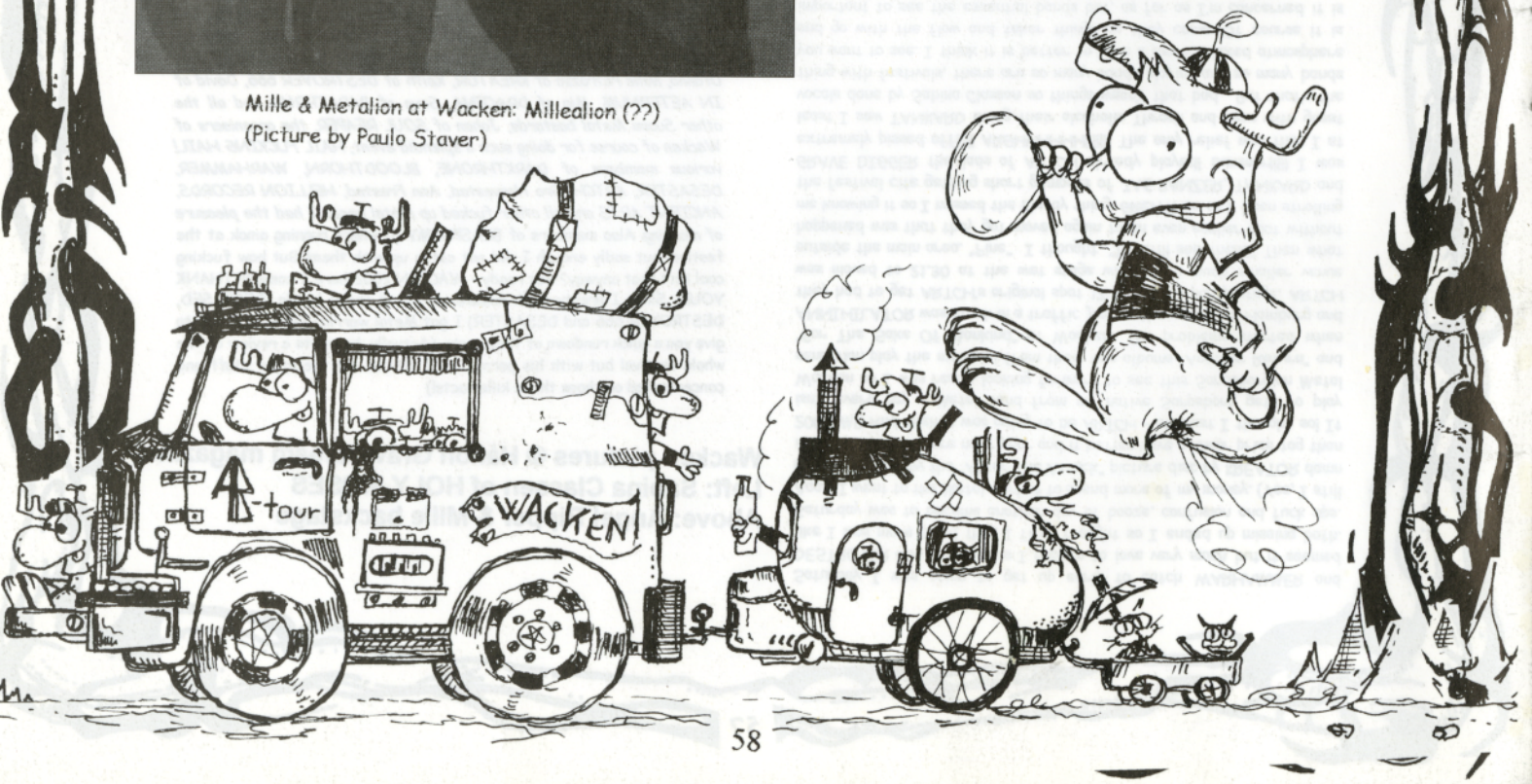
Mille & Metalion at Wacken: Millealion (??)
(Picture by Paulo Staver)

Friday -
DECEASED
The beginning of the festival! We wake up in a drunken stupor and stumble down to the festival area and the main stage to watch the true old school Thrash Attack from Virginia, USA. Being that I'm friends with the band, I wanted to get down there at around 9:45 (they went on at 10:00) and I was surprised to see King and the guys already onstage setting up. This was the first time the band had ever used a drummer and had King Fowley be a front man vocalist, so anticipation was high. Things got underway pretty much on schedule and they opened the festival promptly at 10:00 with the song "Night Of The Deceased". The crowd was fucking great for **DECEASED**, which was killer considering the early time slot. They played for a little over 45 minutes and playing something from every corner of their long carrier. Mike Smith (the guitarist) even stole the microphone away from King at one point and pointed directly to me and yelled "Blizzard Beast" (my Internet user name), it was pretty fucking cool. They performed two covers in their set; "Voivod" by VOIVOD and KREATOR's "Tormentor" (the finale) and that was when a full on slam pit erupted at 10:35 at Wacken Open Air! I looked behind me and saw a 'sea of headbangers' and crazed Metal heads just going crazy for **DECEASED**. It was something I won't soon forget I can assure you!

DESASTER
...we headed back to the festival area to check out the Black/Death band **DESASTER** from Germany! One of the main reasons I ventured to Wacken this year. I was very excited to see **DESASTER** play live. (*Me too! But I was busy doing other things! Hmmfff!* ED) They were great live and had perfect sound. It was dark out and when the lights shined of the stage to the crowd, you could see tons of spiked arms and fists pumping in the air, along with rows of headbangers. **DESASTER's** music just does that to you! It has the old school *SODOM/KREATOR* vibe going on. **DESASTER** played two new songs from their newest album as well as a great mix of songs from their two previous albums. They ended their all to brief set with a blistering version of "Metalized Blood" which I felt was a killer song to end with!

Saturday -
DESTROYER 666
Up at the very UN-Metal hour of 10:00 AM we got our shit together, cracked our beers and stumbled down to the festival area for another day of Chaos & Metal! Heading for the party stage to see **DESTROYER 666** from Melbourne, Australia. They were just about to take the stage as we arrived. Another band I was very excited to see! They pounded out song after song of dirty Death/Thrash, that thankfully had crystal clear sound- "Australian & Antichrist", "The Eternal Glory Of War", "Phoenix Rising" were just some of the songs they did in their set. They had a pretty good crowd, but it was so early in the morning (11:00) it looked like a majority of the festival was still 'sawing logs' in their tent. (*Guilty as charged!* ED) A shame because **DESTROYER 666** were a killer 'alarm clock' and they got my blood pumping and energy flowing. KK Warslut (guitars/vocals) led the rest of the band into battle for 45 minutes and I was there to witness it! Yet another high point for me!

Cheerz and strong German beers!
Scott "Blizzard Beast" Cameron
(Brutally edited by Metalion! Thanks for this Blizzy!))



ABORYM

Interview with Sethlans of ABORYM performed by Bård Faust
Thank you!

Sethlans; you visited Norway early in 2001. Could you share with us your experiences and also expectations prior to the journey? What people did you meet and what is the sole impression you were left with upon returning to Italy?

- That was a long, weird trip...It was from a long time that I was planning this journey towards North...I came for different reasons, among the others to meet some individuals I was in contact with. I was pretty excited before coming up there, a lot of thoughts flowing in my mind. It was cool that also Attila was there in the same days (he is always hanging out with Necro Butcher), since we planned to meet halfway (since he lives in Budapest and me in Rome)... It was really great to finally meet with you, Mr Eithun. Great individuals such as R. Nattefrost (CARPATHIAN FOREST), Frost (SATYRICON/1349), Samoth, Dirge Rep: they all behaved like brothers with me so here I take the occasion to hail them all. The sole impression is that the war is over and a platoon of brave soldiers remained. But new wars will rise, hopefully! And anyway The North is the uppermost Darkness forever!

Most of those who have followed Aborym from the "Kali Yuga Bizarre" album to the recently released "Fire Walk With Us", have remarked a certain change of musical approach. Whereas "Kali Yuga Bizarre" was somewhat a classic Black Metal release with brutality mixed with melodic, slower parts, the "Fire Walk Us" was more of a sterile and sonic, non-melodic platter. Exactly what made you step towards this direction and what has the reactions been to it?

- I think your analysis is close to the truth contained in those sounds. The second album turned out this way, cause that's exactly how we felt like when we were composing it. Filled with anger, vengeance and searching the ecstasy through unhuman feelings. It was the Negative emanations of our spirits who made the album turn out that way. That was a really negative period of our existence. A descending in Daath/Death.. So that's why "Fire Walk With Us" is basically different from the previous ("Kali Yuga Bizarre"), which anyway was a pure expression of Chaos.

Further on; in which (musical) direction will your next album proceed?

- I prefer not to talk about the next album yet. We are working on it and I can tell you it will be a surprise to a lot of people. AboryM is in continuos movement, we don't want to repeat what has already been done. It will shock people for sure. And there will be three lyrics written by You! We are all pretty excited, since we returned from a successful first gig in Marseilles (France), and a couple of days at the Drakkar castle, which was a great experience (hail Noktu!hail Meyna'ch!). We are probably doing a mini tour with other two bands (most likely the french MUTIILATION and DIABOLICUM from Sweden, which are among the few Black Metal bands I respect nowadays).Then in October/November we will start working on the new album in the studio.

I am sure a lot of people is surprised that your vocalist is none other than Attila Csihar from cult bands like TORMENTOR and MAYHEM. How did you come in contact with him and do you think his underground fame has helped you in anyway?

- Originally it was thanks to a common friend of ours, named Luigi Coppo, a weird and really cool friend which was running H.L.K. records, an Italian cult label which released the PLASMA POOL first album "I" (PLASMA POOL is the psychedelic dark techno band Attila was involved in the early nineties) and the first TORMENTOR demo "The Seventh Day Of Doom". We recorded a sort of pre- album rehearsal and asked Luigi to bring it with him in Budapest and to give it to Attila. Well, the guy liked it very much, we entered in contact and he agreed to be the singer on three tracks on the "Kali Yuga Bizarre" album. Then, to make it short (a lot of shitty events after the release of the album, inside and outside the band) the other singer was out of the band and Attila decided to join us permanently. Yes, I am sure a lot of people were surprised by that fact, that he is our singer. But honestly I don't give a shit. He is the best vocalist according to me. And he is a brother for us all so. Well, as for the help he gave us for the fact of being already well known in the underground. In a way that's true, but we never put stickers on the CD's saying "..with Attila from TORMENTOR/THE TRUE MAYHEM"! Anyway, people knows it by now, that Attila is singing with the Italians AboryM.

Your 2 record-deal with SCARLET is now finished. What are you next planning to do label-wise? Would you consider to re-sign with SCARLET if they gave you a proper deal or would you rather try out other alternatives? What label would be the most perfect for AboryM?

- Yes, the contract with SCARLET is now over. There will be big news soon about our next label. Let's say we found the perfect label for us at the moment. We just need a good budget to work with. A fucking good promotion. And a tour to spread the poison of Chaos. If a label doesn't grant that to a band then it's a bit difficult for everyone.

The "underground"-scene is so diverse and pluralistic these days. Do you reckon this as a good thing as anything else would be a limitation of ones artistic freedom or do you feel that the world of extreme music should stick to a certain codex of behavioural and value-defined set of regulations?

- That's hard to answer a question like this. It depends on what we consider for "underground". If I was in Norway with you in the old days I would have probably stick to the rules we talked about, if you remember, but today I don't give a shit about others, I just think what's right for me, for AboryM, for my few brothers, that's all! But some of the bands today should be really put up against the wall and brutally executed! I also think one should always think of and pay respect and honour to the originators of a movement, pretty simple - the discipline of hell...

How would you characterise the Italian Extreme Metal scene? If one looks at bands like MORTUARY DRAPE, NECRODEATH, SINOATH, MONUMENTUM, SCHIZO and DEATH SS what comes to my mind is that each one of these have their own peculiar thing going and are very original in essence. Doesn't Italy have a commercialised and trend-filled scene like any other country?

- You asked this to the wrong person, cause I fucking hate Italian metal. Forget about this plastic powerhappymetal (ok, they are good musicians, but who the fuck cares?) which is infesting the whole world. I think in the past, in the eighties there were great acts such as BULLDOZER, NECRODEATH and the others you mentioned. Yes, everyone has a different sound and style, that's true. In Rome there was a great Black Metal band once: BRISEN (ex DUNGEON). Hail to them wherever they are. Also OCCULTUM MAGNIFICENTIA and ARIMONIUM REX are Black Metal bands that I respect very much here in Rome. The rest is just to kill. As for the commercialised trend filled scene just think about power metal, that's it! That's the only Italian metal product which is making a lot of money...I don't hate them cause they sell a lot of copies, but just because their music express happiness and positive values. In Italy we are hated by a lot of people because of what we are saying, that our message is negative, that we are evil. Never forget that Italy and especially Rome are the cradle of fucking Christian bigotry. Almost everyone here is a Christian slut deep in his heart, even if they don't know, it's in their genetic code, it's in their blood. This country smells of Christianity, and I'm lucky enough of not having been even baptised! Another cool thing about Norway is that I felt the total absence of Christianity, no churches, no single crucifix to be found anywhere.

How important is music and related topics to you and your comrades in AboryM? Do you see music as a concept where one has to reach for the inner esoteric levels in order to be able to fully understand and appreciate the wholeness and complexities of music?

- Yes, and that's the case with AboryM. I don't think you can separate the topics and the concepts from the music, especially in the extreme music field (be it extreme Metal or electronic music or whatever). When one starts to divide the music from the ideas and concepts you have the ALICE COOPER kinda things, like: "I'm a normal person in real life, I'm just ALICE on stage....", which I don't really like. But probably that's a phenomenon which occurs when one gets older. And since we'll never be old for one reason or another there's no problem with this...

At the end; what would you like to see achieved with AboryM?

- The killing of Cosmos! The triumph of Khaos! Thanx a lot for this chat, Bård. Horned hails to Metalion! Devilish hailz to Sasrof of DIABOLICUM (we have a Black Metal division together and a 7" will be soon released by the Italian WARLORD RECORDS) Also, Luciferian hails to Jon Nødtveidt, can't wait for the Return... Hail the Coming of Seth! SLAYER do the work of the AntiKrist! NekroElektroKuLT!The RoaD Of Excess leads To the PalacE oF WiSdOM!

METALFUKKINGHOLOCAUST

This time I tried to evaluate all albums label by label but I'm not sure if I did that very well. Points are from (0) for the most tedious and worthless releases and (6) for the most astonishing. From time to time (-) are used for the reason that I might not really care about the project or have a hard time judging the material. Other scales may well be used if I feel for it. Also for those who think the grades are too high, there has been plenty of releases I didn't even bother to review due to their shit qualities or was so incredible UN-interesting I just couldn't face it. All reviews by Metalion. All reviews are my individual opinion, which means they are honest and perhaps a bit different than your taste from time to time!

HEAVY METAL

SKULLVIEW - "Consequences Of Failure" CD (R.I.P.)
How amazingly good isn't it? To hear a Metal album that reeks of quality? This is no pseudo power Metal band, this is fucking Metal! Aggressive, raw and bone crushing!!! SKULLVIEW is already on their 3rd release with this and holding the banner of fucking Metal up high! This is performed in a very raw and skull crushing way, can be of resemblance of the underground US '80ies Metal bands, also hints of classic MAIDEN can be heard. Power Metal freaks raised on GAMMA RAY or HAMMERFALL take note, this is more Metal than you'll ever grasp!! (4+)

MORNINGSTAR - "Weight Of The Hammer" CD (R.I.P.)
In some way this is comparable to SKULLVIEW as it is fucking underground Metal to the bone!!! And yes R.I.P. RECORDS is slowly becoming a new favorite of mine. This is more mid-paced material but still really excellent. Very raw and very good. Not as god as SKULLVIEW but getting there. (3)

HAMMERS OF MISFORTUNE - "The Bastard" CD (THE BASTARD)
I did a small review of this band under their former moniker UNHOLY CADAVER. Now they changed their name to the more suitable HAMMERS OF MISFORTUNE. Musically they are not that different, they still do their epic, underground Metal very well. A very classy act. A good mix of vocals with a overall Celtic influence. (3+)

HEMLOCK - "Lust For Fire" CD (FULL MOON)
Finally!!! The demented "Lust For Fire" CD by HEMLOCK is here. HEMLOCK is the type of band you have to 'understand'. There is so much more than just the revolting Black Metal they execute. Ugly Black Metal from the grave! The production is really fucked up which makes this even more fascinating; it fits the murkiness of HEMLOCK perfect. Add to this exceptionally harsh vocals, overly distorted guitars all combined you reached Black Metal excellence in my book. HEMLOCK fucks you up the same way SADISTIK EXEKUTION does even if they are doing an entirely dissimilar concept. HEMLOCK is one of the few bands that maintain the original ideas of fucking Black Metal still taking it to another level due to the insanity of the material. (6.66)

DIABOLICUM - "The Dark Blood Rising (The Hatecrowned Retaliation)" CD (CODE 666) Cold, industrialized Black Metal from Sweden's Christ killers DIABOLICUM. While their debut CD an NAPALM had a lot of promise they have developed a lot since that. This is some seriously fucked up shit, for those who approve the madness of ABORYM and DHG, but this is more Metal in some frenzied way, some parts have a more pure Black Metal feeling than others. And why do I think of drugs when I hear music like this? Massive darkness! (3+)

CADAVER INC. - "Discipline" CD (EARACHE)
The instigator behind CADAVER (Anders Odden) decided to restore to life his old Death Metal band with a new line-up. (For further information see SLAYER 15) So this is the result. An 11-song album that delivers pulverizing Death Metal in great quantity. Fucking fast stuff that I feel is very influenced by old SLAYER, the same insane feeling, not essentially the same sound, then add certain VOIVODesque parts and you will get some idea. Fucking frantic Death Metal psychosis! (3+)

SPAZZTIC BLURR - "Spazztic Blurr" CD (EARACHE)
I remember when this was originally released and I thought it to be quite funny. This was a side project featuring members from WEHRMACHT. Musically like a mad crossover thing with bits and pieces of everything you can imagine. I don't really think much of it now, the humor feels 'old' and I doubt if people will buy this unless for sentimental reasons. (?)

UNSEEN TERROR - "Human Error" CD (EARACHE)
This is a better re-release. "Human Error" is a classic release as far as early grind-core goes. I'd say time has been nice to this one because it still kills!!!! Not really much more to say than get it! Too bad they could not feature their classic 'PEEL SESSION' as bonus. (4)

MORTIIS - "The Smell Of Rain" CD (EARACHE)
Enough keyboard dominated dungeon music from Mr. Mortiis. Mortiis probably knew that he reached his limit in his former genre, which is rather limited anyway, and then decides to jump to something else. For some reason Mortiis always been big in Goth circles so there is where the new sound lies. Like in the realms of cheaper SISTERS OF MERCY clones mixed with a bit post 'industrial' (read: MINISTRY or NINE INCH NAILS) guitars. Yeah, sounds great, huh? The only thing in common with previous Mortiis material is that it is all bad - very fucking bad! (0)

DARK FUNERAL - "Diabolis Interium" CD (NO FASHION)
Well, DARK FUNERAL can now re-capture their throne as far as extreme Black Metal goes. I do admit I was pretty skeptic after I heard the EP last year, but DARK FUNERAL really did come through on this album. Full speed ahead Satan worship!!!! If you still like violent Black Metal I think not many can beat this lot. There is many bands playing this full speed ahead form of Black Metal holocaust, but DARK FUNERAL has that extra touch. There is something unique going on making them a cut above the rest. Just listen to "Hail Murder" to get an little idea of what I mean. Also the drum work is insanely good and takes the band to a new level! (4)

KHOLD - "Masterpiss Of Pain" CD (MOONFOG)
KHOLD have their roots in the band TULUS and they bring on the tradition from those days, which means simple but effective Black Metal in the DARKTHRONE school. Not many do this style with the same approach as KHOLD. Integrate in also elements of BATHORY and CELTIC FROST to tremendously groovy tunes and insert Norwegian lyrics. It might not sound that exhilarating but in this case it works. One of the better pure Black Metal releases in a long time where we mostly deal in run of the mill shit in this genre. (3)

DARKTHRONE - "Plaguewielder" CD (MOONFOG)
This is probably the best DARKTHRONE album in a fairly long time. I think this sounds far more fresh and vital than for instance "Total Death" or "Ravishing Grimness". This album seems to capture that extra little bit that makes an album a bit more special. For sure this is DARKTHRONE, no way you can not recognize their sound. It is just a bit more vital and dare I say kick ass than their previous albums. And when you think of it, DARKTHRONE is the only Black Metal band from Norway of some significance still sticking to their Black Metal roots. Every other band changed but DARKTHRONE never wimped out. (Yeah, I'm aware of the first album) (3+)

DOOMSTONE - "Satanvoid" CD (TIRADE RECORDS)
I just want to call this Satanized Heavy Metal beyond the unholy grave, as simple as that. Great Dark Heavy Metal with a Satanic/Horror concept. This was recorded a few years ago but it is not that long ago it was released. I like the atmosphere on this, pure evil. Its not like the Black Metal of today but this carry on the essence of evil. Fans of classic Heavy Metal will be pleased to find a CUTTY SARK cover here, "Die Tonight"! BANG THY HEAD! (4) *One a different note, there is a EP called "Pigs" out as we speak featuring their new singer, sadly enough we did not get it in time for this issue, a new full length will be unleashed in 2002 followed by a interview in the next SLAYER! Or the other way around!*

MURDER SQUAD - "Unsane, Insane And Mentally Deranged" CD (PAVEMENT) Some well known figures from the Swedish Death Metal scene joined up for this relentless assault of total AUTOPSY worship, also not without some references from the early Death Metal days of Stockholm. I must admit this is one kick ass album and it is nice to hear this hideous, sludgy drug infested Death Metal sound in 2001!!! (3)

NOCTURNAL WORSHIPPER - "The Return Of The Southern Tyrants" CD (DEMISE) This is a great band hailing from Brazil. Black Metal done the primitive way. The sound is not ideal but still this band has all the right things going for them in the ugly world of Black Metal. Some MAYHEM influences are also enclosed. Pretty fucking cool I must admit. This proves you don't have to have a million dollar sound to sound superior. (3)

HOLY MOSES - "Master Of Disaster" M-CD (CENTURY MEDIA)
The only thing that pisses me off about this release is the shortness of it. It is only five tracks and bloody hell - I WANT MORE! HOLY MOSES is back!!! The band that released a handful of thrash classics in the past is finally back. And what a comeback, this is fucking ear slaughtering. Thrash brutality of supreme order. For the 17 minutes this CD lasts HOLY MOSES crush all in sight. Over vicious sound with those typical thrash choirs and of course the frantic vocals of Sabina Classen. I tell you the truth, she never sounded so sick as on this. Get German Thrash superiority of the finest order! RE-BORN DOGS!!! (5.5)

...AND OCEANS - "Am 90d" CD (CENTURY MEDIA)
Some bands change for the better, not so ...AND OCEANS. Their new ostentatious style is nothing to write home about. Including new nuts and bolts in the music might not be a bad thing - in this case it is. (0)

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PREPARE FOR THE KILLING

...HE LODESKUNST

TWIN OBSCENITY – "Bloodstone" CD (CENTURY MEDIA)
Well, this is the third album here from the twins. Pretty standard stuff, having the BATHORY infamous Viking era well interpreted in their Grim Black Metal. Not really bad, but those female vocals are bad. Slightly better than useless close to a bit below average! (2+)

SOLEFALD – "Pills Against The Ageless Ills" CD (CENTURY MEDIA)
A wacky band if that terms is allowed to be used. I'm not really into this, it disturbs me in one way. Especially the clean vocals, I don't know what it is, it just annoys me. They are certainly not bad, they just are annoying. This is an roller coaster of an extreme Metal band taking you in all different directions, especially the vocals. For me it is not very convincing. For those of you who prefer something 'intelligent' – not me! (1)

MORGUL – "Sketch Of Supposed Murder" CD (CENTURY MEDIA)
There are a few good ideas on this avant-garde Black Metal album, heavily influenced by every Black Metallers new much-loved band DEVIL DOLL if I'm not much mistaken. But I feel most of this is weird for the sake of being weird, not any real feelings behind it. Not like SIGH for instance.(0)

SIGH – "Imaginary Sonicscape" CD (CENTURY MEDIA)
SIGH never cease to puzzle my mind. In their hybrid of avant-garde music filled with a lot of inspirations from Metal, progressive rock or whatever they also insert a lot of catchiness in the music. Too strange for many but in my ears this is just splendid. Many have accused SIGH for being too weird for their own good. But in all honesty, it is not that weird, it is just that narrow minded Metal heads are not used to an outside influence. Not me, I just love this unique orchestra! (4)

KRISIUN – "Ageless Venomous" CD (CENTURY MEDIA)
I do like this Brazilian death squad and it is for a sure a killer Death Metal album for the new generation. The only thing that I'm a bit uncomfortable with is the fucking strange drum sound. Hmmmmm. (3)

DRAGONLORD – "Rapture" CD (SPITFIRE)
It is amazing how far this Black Metal 'thing' has gone. Who'd expected a TESTAMENT guitarist ending up in a Black Metal band? It is really fucking freaky hearing this with much hints of OLD MAN'S CHILD and DIMMU BORGIR. The better aspects are that you can hear the typical TESTAMENT guitars here and there, and like the total thrash chaos of "Wolf Hunt". But I'd prefer a new TESTAMENT album. All this keyboard cheeseinezz just don't work! We didn't need this album, we need a new TESTAMENT album ...you are not fooling me you Black Metal wannabe. (1)

TRISTANIA – "World Of Glass" CD (NAPALM)
This is not very good either, for some reason TRISTANIA is considered to be one of the biggest in this Goth/Metal scene. Good for me I'm not a part of that 'scene'. Go away artsy fartsy bastards of stupidity. (0)

BLACK SYMPHONY – "Tears Of Blood" CD (RISING SUN)
I do like Metal, and I like a lot of it. However, I do not like this Metal band at all. They sound just horrid. (0)

MACBETH – "Vanitax" CD (DRAGONHEART)
Yeah, right! Fucking idiotic. Loser hybrid of Goth and Metal with guttural vocals which makes this so stupid and low! BURN!! (0)

GUARDIANS OF TIME – "Edge Of Tomorrow" CD (SHARK)
Norwegians true Metal. Not really there yet but... Certainly much better than the now defunct PHOENIX RIZING but still a long way to go. (1)

SACRED OATH – "A Crystal Vision" CD (SENTINEL STEEL)
Another US Metal band that has been buried by time and dust. There must be an everlasting supply of US 'lost' Heavy Metal bands. Denis from SENTINEL STEEL dug this up and he did a good job as far as layout and information goes. Pretty heavy stuff with an occult theme. Also a very high pitched singer at times so I guess this lot used to worship MERCYFUL FATE. Pretty interesting CD! (3)

GORELORD/WURDULAK – "Feature Creature" split CD EP (RED STREAM)
GORELORD is the horrifying new Death Metal sensation from Norway. Quite pleased to hear such a deathly Death Metal band from Norway I must say. WURDALAK is another all star band featuring Killjoy, Maniac and a bunch of other. Not that distant sounding from EIBON. Two tracks each only. I await full lengths. (-)

PENTACLE – "Ancient Death" M-CD (DAMNATION)
Fucking Gods PENTACLE must be considered as! Pure underground warriors!!! It is a bit strange to think that PENTACLE only released one full length album, but there has been a bunch of EP's and splits also. Now we have a mini album again, some sort of celebration release. Featuring some cover versions of DEATH & MANTAS, something re-recorded and something new. PENTACLE stands true with their ancient Death Metal, one band I can compare them to are PENTAGRAM from Chile. I find the same feeling in their music. And I do still think there is a OBITUARY feel over the vocals! (4)

URN – "666 Megatons" CD (DAMNATION)
URN is a fucking killer Black Metal band from Finland. Yeah, DAMNATION is going out of business but at least they are going out with style. URN is rock & roll holocaust Black Metal! Finland Rules! (4)

EVENSONG – "Mysterium" CD (DISPLEASED)
Let's be funny now, I'm very 'displeased' with this and it is a big 'mysterium' they are allowed to release records. Show some respect people, I put my garbage in the trash can, I don't release it to the world. Amazingly bad vocals, stupid drum patters. Very horrible and bad! (0)

DIABOLIC – "Subterraneal Magnitude" CD (HAMMERHAERT)
The 2nd slaughterhouse album from DIABOLIC. Pretty good Death stuff still in the vein of earlier MORBID ANGEL but still original to stand on its own merits. (3)

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REBALLIUM – "Annihilation" CD (HAMMERHEART)
After ANGEL CORPSE broke up the Death Metal throne was open, seems like REBALLIUM was pretty quick to re-capture it. If you miss ANGEL CORPSE, REBALLIUM is here for you. Full speed Death Metal. (3)

AETERNUS – "Ascension Of Terror" CD (HAMMERHEART)
When I got their comp. CD I was really blown away by the new track "Burning The Shroud" and I was certainly looking forward to this opus. They don't disappoint. They battle on with their Deathish Metal with links to Black Metal. Especially the vocals are very guttural. It's very heavy and pulverising stuff we got here. (3)

EXMORTEM – "Berzerker Legions" CD (HAMMERHEART)
EXMORTEM was what we needed as far as Death Metal goes in 2001. I haven't paid that much notice to the earlier releases of these Danish madmen. But now everything seems right. Fucking brutalizing Death Metal. Fuck all those SIX FEET UNDER and CANNIBAL CORPSES. EXMORTEM fucking smokes all of them. And they have Viking lyrics too!!! (4)

SINISTER – "Creative Killing" CD (HAMMERHEART)
This is another album I was really looking forward to hear, the new assault f Dutch Death Metal veterans SINISTER. It has been a few silent years in the SINISTER camp but they seemed to have been using them well. For those who seen them t Wacken a few years ago I'm sure you still have stories to tell! SINISTER DESTROYS!!! This is a fucking masterpiece of manic Death Metal. Not really your Death Metal standard stuff here. I'm much impressed by the twist and turns of the guitar work, bloody hell, this band slays. And to be no different than other reviewers I have to mention the guttural death grunts of new singer Rachel – awesome!!! (4)

EM SINFONIA – "Intimate Portrait" CD (HAMMERHEART)
Some guy from BROKEN HOPE joins up with some chick (with the suitable name Bunny) and tries to make moody Death Metal. Please note I did say TRY. Because this is pretty lousy material. (0)

ALAS – "Absolute Purity" CD (HAMMERHEART)
Eric Rutan plays on a lot of strings, not only is he butchering the axe in MORBID ANGEL and HATE ETERNAL. Now he also released his atmospheric project. The man has some soft spots... The main difference between this and other female fronted 'atmospheric' bands is Eric's guitar playing. Not as heavy as we are used to but it is still Eric. So what can I say? Atmospheric Metal a tad heavier and slightly more interesting than other bands alike. But seriously, who cares? (1)

ANCIENT RITES – "Dim Carcosa" CD (HAMMERHEART)
ANCIENT RITES is of course very well known in the Death/Black underground. They have always been there, they always done quality stuff but still they seems to be the underdog. Now they signed with ever-growing HAMMERHEART so maybe that will help them? Well, no matter what label they are on they need to have class material. And they do, they really have a lot of killer stuff, a healthy mix of Thrash, Black and Heavy Metal. My problem with this is that it is a bit too nice and a little over sophisticated for my taste, I want ANCIENT RITES to be heavier!!! But still, a quality product for sure. (3)

BLOOD RED THRONE – "Monument Of Death" CD (HAMMERHEART)
Norwegian Death Metal is not that common, BLOOD RED THRONE is new hopefuls and do this old school Death Metal pretty good. I was actually expecting more and it is not really the monster I wanted it to be. (3)

URGEHAL – "Atomkinder" CD (FLESH FOR BEAST)
There has been rather silent on the URGEHAL front lately so this third release from this underrated Black Metal band stroke me as a fist in a Metal head. I'm pleased to announce the quality Black Metal has not left Norway! URGEHAL has without doubt released their best album so far. Their destructive Norwegian quality Black Metal fucking shreds! Their thrash roots also shines through on cover versions of SEPULTURA and KREATOR! Great production too, I love that wall of crushing guitars. A bit to short (28 minutes including two covers) but what the fuck? (4)

GRAVE DIGGER – "The Grave Digger" CD (NUCLEAR BLAST)
GRAVE DIGGER – the last hope for Teutonic Heavy Metal? I think so, after bands like RUNNING WILD, RAGE, GAMMA RAY, HELLOWEEN etc. release material far below par it is good to see some Germans still pumping out aggressive Metal instead of all this lalalalalala Metal. GRAVE DIGGER have even gone darker on this release. The new recruit – Manni Schmit (guitar) seems to put new life into GRAVE DIGGER, his riffs are extremely good. Ages ago I though of them as a heavier ACCEPT, that still seems to be the truth! (4)

TIDFALL – "Instinct Gate" CD (NUCLEAR BLAST)
What the fuck is wrong with people??? This is the new Black Metal sensation? Come on!!!! Of course it will sell millions but TIDFALL is at best a very average and boring Black Metal band of the new generation. Far too polished and without any own seals of quality or originality. (0)

SLAUGHTER – "Strappado" CD (NUCLEAR BLAST)
Get this classic of ugly thrash from SLAUGHTER! One of the best albums ever!!! REALLY!!! Now let's have some PROTECTOR re-release! (6)

THERION – "Secret Of The Runes" CD (NUCLEAR BLAST)
For me the last few THERION albums have sounded just the same. Orchestral Metal with mass choirs instead of lead vocals. Because of the lack of a real singer it gets boring in the long run. Well, it gets boring in the short run too. (1)

AGATHODAIMON – "Chapter III" CD (NUCLEAR BLAST)
3rd album already, huh? Sathonys (guitar) is a good friend so I better behave. AGATHODAIMON performs nice Black Metal, far to nice in my opinion. Very commercial and having all the right stuff to be good, they do have some stuff that makes them better than most Norse core for instance. I may not be their biggest fan but I'm sure they sell millions in Germany! They are for sure better than most other new Black Metal, but that doesn't mean much does it?. (?)

DESTRUCTION – "Antichrist" CD (NUCLEAR BLAST)
Well, well, well. What can I say about this? If you remember a couple of issues ago I gave their comeback "All Hell Breaks Loose" album the best of reviews, so what do I do when they come up with something even better? This is more brutal and simplistic or more straight to the point if you like. They still keep the DESTRUCTION trademarks of course. I say it proudly, DESTRUCTION never been as good as they are on this. Put it between "Infernal Overkill" and "Eternal Devastation" as far as quality goes. I mean, the opening track is called "Thrash 'Til Death"!!! What more can you expect???? DESTRUCTION is thee resurrected THRASH GODS of the new millennium!!!! Also great cover art work! I gave the last album 100 points so this have to go higher! In the name of Metal – (666)

BAL SAGOTH – "Atlantis Ascendant" CD (NUCLEAR BLAST)
I'm proud to say I never understood this band. Their keyboard-dominating fairy Metal was just far beyond reach for me. I could not grasp this, still can't. In addition to that, I find their Metal very run of the mill at best. But it seems like BAL FAGOT is a band you either detest or adore. As I said I'm proud to be in the first group. (0)

BENEDICTION – "Organized Chaos" CD (NUCLEAR BLAST)
In one sense it is cool that BENEDICTION is still out there. I found their last album "Grind Bastard" pretty uplifting but with this one they are just back to the same old boring Death stuff. (1)

IN FLAMES – "The Tokyo Showdown – Live in Japan" 2000 CD, **HYPOCRISY** – "10 Years Of Chaos And Confusion" CD, **MESHUGGA** – "Rare Trax" CD, **CREMATORY** – "Remind" CD, **DEATH** – "Live In L.A. (Death & Raw)" (All on NUCLEAR BLAST) I decided to put all those CD's together as they are all either live or comp. stuff. **IN FLAMES** offer their first live CD and listening to this I think they should have waited a bit longer. The material come across fairly weak sounding in a live situation and it sounds really stale. As a live album this is boring, the only fun here is the little SLAYER sequences here and there. Also the crowd seems very distant to be a Tokyo showdown. In all fairness it is probably a very honest recording, just not very interesting. (-) **HYPOCRISY**, a comp. CD with some re-recorded stuff, some old classics and some unreleased stuff and whatever. Well, I always liked some of the emotional Death Metal from HYPOCRISY so this release is pretty cool, comes as a double CD. (-) **MESHUGGA** is another band I only liked selected works of. But this CD is worth getting for the opening track "War" alone. Fucking brutal!!! Also it is fun to hear their ancient mini LP on CD and how much they sounded like METALLICA back then as opposed to this new hybrid style they do now. (-) **CREMATORY**, well, never my cup of tea. Their Goth/Death never impressed me, this is some sort of farewell/live/best of CD which is – well – hmmffffff! I wouldn't say anything bad about them as I seen some pictures of them, pretty scary guys. (-) Well, the **DEATH** live album is pretty cool if you are a fan of the newer technical side of DEATH. As a old fan I only get two tracks in the shape of "Zombie Ritual" and "Pull The Plug", so not so much in there for me. Good sound and Chuck's voice seems a bit more screechy in a live situation. (-)

DARKANE – "Insanity" CD (NUCLEAR BLAST)
After their TESTAMENT adoring debut "Rusted Angel" a few years ago they jumped up to NUCLEAR BLAST to let them take care of their business, a good thing because this is a killer album. As the title says it is a bit more on the insane side of things, especially the drumming. Still very Thrash TESTAMENT like but certain flavour of demented hysteria. (3+)

WAYNE – "Metal Church" CD (NUCLEAR BLAST)
Welcome to Wayne's world. Sadly enough this is neither 'party time' or 'excellent'. This is former METAL CHURCH'S singer new spawn attempting to flogging a dead horse. Not really a bad effort I must say, Wayne's vocals are still cool and the music is reasonable fine Power Metal the American way. It does jog your memory of the early METAL CHURCH albums but not that immense, it is a bit sad when I think of it. (2)

ABOMINATOR – "Subversives For Lucifer" CD (OSMOSE)
Barbarian horde ABOMINATOR signed to OSMOSE for this 2nd assault. You know what to get, slightly boring in the long run but very effective in shorter assaults. Australian War Metal! (3)

ANOREXIA NERVOSA – "New Obscurantis Order" CD (OSMOSE)
I wasn't really expecting much of this French Black Metal band but I was very surprised. Granted that the keyboards gets a bit annoying at times but their full on Black Metal strike really convinces me. I don't really love the CANDLEMASS cover but I love the fact they did it! (4)

IMPALED NAZARENE – "Absence Of War Does Not Mean Peace" CD (OSMOSE) Dirty rotten Suomi bastards IMPALED can't do much wrong in my opinion. I think they get better and better every time. Their goat awe crust influenced extreme Metal really does it for me. A great band!!!! (4+)

ENSLAVED – "Monumension" CD (OSMOSE)
Just like EMPEROR ENSLAVED have really changed a lot. But I like the changes in ENSLAVED better than EMPEROR. ENSLAVED is really far out. Almost too far which makes it even more interesting at times. Doing this they walk on a very thin edge and the difference between failure and success is very small. I'd say ENSLAVED almost made it. You get all the ENSLAVED you crave for and you get an extra dash of psychedelic rock. I'm glad to see some creativity born after the inhalation of illegal substances. Psychedelic extreme Viking Metal!! (3+)

ABSU – "Tara" CD (OSMOSE)
I like this – a lot!!!! ABSU kills on the this "Tara" album! A pretty deep concept here but for sure musically very strong. I love those Thrash parts. Amazing drumming as well. A great fucking Metal LP! ABSU is for sure a unique band well worth your time and money. (4)

CIRITH GORGOR – "Unveiling The Essence" CD (OSMOSE)
I'm not really having the time of my life listening to this, for me this is just a waste. (0)

SADISTIK EXEKUTION – "Fukk" CD (?)
FUKK FUKK FUKK FUKK! The gods of supreme insanity!!! No review needed of this fukked album! SADISTIK EXEKUTION is the soundtrack of my apocalypse - SLAYER MAGAZINE! Extreme supremacy! (6666 x 6666)

WINDS – "Of Entity And Mind" M-CD (AVANTGARDE MUSIC)
Of course heavily promoted due to some of the 'well-known' members. In this case the music should stand pretty much on its own feet, very quiet, sad and gloomy Metal. Not like this cheesy Goth gay Metal style. They are doing their own form of depressing Metal, pretty well done. But I assume you have to be a miserable motherfucker to truly enjoy this. (?)

CARPATHIAN FOREST – "Morbid Fascination Of Death" CD (AVANTGARDE MUSIC) This is truly old school Norwegian Black Metal. No sophisticated shit, just in your face primitive Black Metal. CARPATHIAN FOREST hates you, it as easy as that! There is a pretty heavy CELTIC FROST influence in here at times too. There is a certain nerve in this album that won't let you go. Also the band do experiment on certain occasions. Stuff like that really convinces me that this band is a fucked up bunch of people – and you got to love that. Maybe the sound is not as necro as you expect but this is just awesome! HAIL! (5)

PRIME EVIL – "Unearthed" CD (BATTLE ZONE)
PRIME EVIL hailing from New York is one of those bands that never quite made it; I think it was because this is one of the anti trendiest bands ever. PRIME EVIL had their musical peak in the middle of the early Death Metal explosion and perhaps because they played BRUTAL THRASH instead of BRUTAL DEATH things never went in their direction? (They were close at getting a deal at some point but sadly enough it did not happen.) So after quite some time (the label originally planned to release this chickened out!) we at last can take pleasure of this fine disc. Here we have a gathering of demos (my personal favourite is the 2nd demo!), industry recordings etc. I personally always loved this band, and to have this on CD – it is simply amazing! I love this!! BRUTAL THRASH WITH EXTREME CLASS! (5)

ENTHRONED – "Armoured Bestial Hell" CD (BLACKENED)
I think ENTHRONED is cool for what they do, they always done this manic Black Metal. It is ok but nothing really exciting, and perhaps they have stagnated slightly? (2)

BATHORY – "Destroyer Of Worlds" CD (BLACK MARK)
Quorthon – from now on also known as "Destroyer of own credibility" – took his time with this one. Over 5 years since "Blood On Ice" was released and that was not really a proper album even. And he took 5 years to come up with – *this*? Bloody hell, what have you been smoking Quartie boy? Now, in all sincerity, it is not all bad. Some of the material have this Viking era BATHORY feeling over it, making it sound like leftovers from those past days. Not really lousy but, the best is the title track which makes me think of the "Hell Awaits" introduction for some reason. But it is when Quorthon gets all aggro on us it is not funny anymore. Its like those "Octagon" or "Requiem" albums but worse. His voice is really fucked, it sounds pretty bad, he sounds really strained. All in all, not really a total shajte album, but this is BATHORY, not Johnny come lately Metal. I wasn't expecting Quorthon to return to his glory days of course but I was expecting more than this. When I listen to tracks like "Liberty & Justice" I just want to cry, horrible, horrible!! I bet a lot of youngsters are wondering what the fuck we oldies are talking about when we praise old BATHORY? Quorthon, please realize, your time is up! (0)

PENTAGRAM – "I" CD
This is yet another salute to the tape traders of the '80ies! PENTAGRAM from Chile RULED those days and finally after so many years and worn out tapes it is a CD to replace all this. PENTAGRAM played some fucked up Death Metal rooted in the POSSESSED school. Sadly enough they never made an album but now we have this!!! KILLER BAND!!! Up there with demo classics like INCUBUS (Florida), MORBID ANGEL, MUTILATED, NECROVORE etc. (5)

ABORTED – "Engineering The Dead" CD (LISTENABLE)
'ABORTED nowadays stand as one of the most forceful Death bands in Europe' – ERROR! This is Death Metal, rather on the generic side. Heard it a million times, nothing exciting or interesting here. Even with "Hellraizer" samples intact! Wow, how original! . Check out the next band instead! They are sooooo much better! (1)

DERANGED – "Deranged" CD (LISTENABLE)
Swedish sick fuck grind hell Death Metal. (3)

CENTURION – "Liber Zar Zax" CD (LISTENABLE)
Well, it is pretty hard to come up with a constructive review of this, I make it simple. This is Death Metal, this is good Death Metal. CENTURION is a fucking killer Dutch Death Metal band going their own insane chaos ways!!!! (4)

LULLACRY – "Be My God" CD (SPINEFARM)
KICK ASS!!!! Fucking kick ass album!!!! LULLACRY is a female fronted band from Finland, and luckily this is no operatic NIGHTWISH wannabe band. This is something simple as a heavy rock band!!!! In all Finnish bands it is always easy to find a SENTENCED influence, so it is in this case also. But every case is different, sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't. In this case it works. But still something own is created on this CD – it fucking rocks!!! Sometimes it is as simple as that! PAMELA METAL! (3.5)

SHADOW – "I" CD (SPINEFARM)
Fairly average Swedish styled Death melodic Metal done by a Japanese band, fairly interesting and not really bad. Heard worse, heard better. Bands like that is easily heading for anonymity as far as I'm concerned. (2)

FINNTROLL – "Jaktens Tid" (SPIKEFARM)
You can't take a band like this serious can you? It is amusing listening to their gnome Metal for a few minutes, just as it was fun listening to STORM ages ago. In-between their troll folk Metal they even have time for some discomforting Blackened Metal. If you buy this and honestly like it you are a fucking hobgoblin, sorry – I just don't get it! (0)

1349 – "1349" M-CD (HOLYCAUST)
This is a promising release from a Norwegian Black Metal band. The quality of this release is a bit mixed and they do have an awful CELTIC FROST cover on here, which didn't really thrill me. Giving the right amount of time in the studio in the future I'm pretty sure they can come up with a Norwegian Black Metal classic, or at least an average CD. (-)

SCEPTIC – "Pathetic Beings" CD (LAST EPISODE)
Well, as the title of his album says... well, that would be the easy way out, huh? But it is not that bad really, kind of technical Death Metal with some intriguing parts. To be on LAST EPISODE this is a work of genius. (2)

DUNKELGRAFEN – "Triumph Des Fleisches" CD (LAST EPISODE)
I'm not even going there. (Sorry Markus) (0)

GRAVEWORM – "Scourge Of Malice" CD (SERENADES)
Now that I got your attention, what do I do with it? Well, I'm not wasting it on this hideous band, that's for sure. (0)

EVIL INCARNATE – "Blackest Hymns Of God's Disgrace" CD (DEATHGASM) A full on assault of Anti Christian Death Metal. You can call this DEICIDE worship or DEICIDE cloning. You choose!!! But I can tell you Evil Mike & co. Are hell-bent on exterminating Christianity from the face of the earth. Man, I love maniacs like that! (?)

CARNIVAL IN COAL – CD (SEASON OF MIST)
Fuck this, a mix of MR. BUNGLE and MORBID ANGEL, their last album had some funny stuff, this is not even close. Boring. (0)

VIKING CROWN – "Banished Rhythmic Hate" CD (SEASON OF MIST)
I know a lot of people dislike Phil Anselmo due to his involvement in Black Metal. Now, I never really cared for that, I care for quality music. Sadly enough VIKING CROWN can not offer that. I like raw Black Metal but it has to be better than this. To me this is just shit. All involed members have better bands to spend time on so I suggest you do that! (0)

NECROPHAGIA – "Cannibal Holocaust" CD EP (SEASON OF MIST)
A pretty ok EP if you ask me – and I think you did as you bought my magazine? This is the 'new' NECROPHAGIA now also featuring Norwegian guitarist! "Cannibal Holocaust" is a pretty eerie NECROPHAGIA track that works well. Some other tracks here as well, demos and unreleased versions or whatever. How interesting this is depends on how big NECROPHAGIA fan you are. But having the Euronymous dedication in "Chainsaw Lust" is good for me. Cool video clip too! (-)

JUNGLE ROT – "Dead And Buried" CD (SEASON OF MIST)
I remember back in '94 or so I got a demo with this band, I remember I thought that the name of this band was pretty fucking unintelligent. Besides that they played inferior standard US Death Metal. I never thought they would go anywhere. Well, they are still here polluting the human race with their stupid Death Metal. Steer clear of this fast-food garbage Death Metal. (0)

EBONY TEARS – "Evil As Hell" CD (BLACK SUN)
This is not what I expected at all. I was really delighted to see there was a new EBONY TEARS album in the mail but the more I listen to it the more disappointed I get. Gone are the trademark melodic Death style of the previous album, instead they gone for the early MESHUGGA style. Which is bad news – at least for me when you consider how great their early material was. (?)

BLOOD STORM – "Ancient Wraith Of KU" CD (METAL WAR)
BLOOD STORM has reached their third opus and I think this is their best one too. A relentless slaughter attack of Metal! There is for sure a old school CELTIC FROST influence lurking in there. Pretty twisted and obscure guitar work also, not necessarily technical but twisted. (4)

ACKERCOKE – "Goat Of Mendes" CD (PEACEVILLE)
This is the new English hope for extreme music it seems. Gone are the days of CARCASS, classic NAPALM DEATH, and classic BOLT THROWER and so here is some new blood. Personally I don't find much exciting activities going on in England nowadays. Of course there is still ADORIOR but not much else of interest. ACEKERCOKE is supposed to change that – I think. Listening to this album I'm not really that convinced, it is ok at best but bloody hell... To me it sounds like an early version of CRADLE OF FILTH in its extremity. Full blast drums and total darkness, the Death Metal influence is also vast, a decent album, less than average, but not really a black uprising. The music is going in all poles apart direction, blasting Death Metal ala DEICIDE to more atmospheric stuff. Not really too much to handle, rather too much to bother. Also they seem to try to give CRADLE OF FILTH a run for their money as far as 'extreme' T-shirt designs go. (1)

SIRIUS – "Spectral Transition – Dimension Sirius" CD
(NOCTURNAL ART) Yeah, they do have great guests on this CD; they do play well their symphonic Black Metal. But besides that this is nothing out of the ordinary. It is a reasonable album by all means for people into this certain EMPEROR style but it remains rather unspecified in my ears. (2)

SIX FEET UNDER – "True Carnage" CD (METAL BLADE)
It is a sad day in Metal history when the highlight of one album is the part featuring some fucking ICE T rapper. Stale and boring Death Metal. (0)

ANCIENT – "Proxiam Centauri" CD (METAL BLADE)
On this release they have at least proper sound, doesn't matter much when it is so boring and non exciting. Black Metal for those who demands absolutely nothing in terms of interesting songs. (0)

AMON AMARTH – "The Crusher" CD (METAL BLADE)
Another case of I heard this Swedish style so numerous times before I'm not really counting anymore. It is typical and mind numbing. Sorry! (1)

BOLT THROWER – "Honour – Valour – Pride" CD (METAL BLADE)
BOLT THROWER is always BOLT THROWER. They sound like they always had – I thought! That was until I decided to bring out "Realm Of Chaos" again. Then I found out that this BOLT THROWER is not as interesting as the old one. Its pretty boring actually if you compare it to the classics. But they are the true originators of War Metal and they are still ok. (3)

WIZZARD – "Black Heavy Metal" CD (GUTTED RECORDS)
Original Finland's finest now centered in Germany. I think the title of the album says it all. WIZZARD is by far the best band associated with the MASSACRE sub label GUTTED. "Black Heavy Metal", that's what we get! Being sons of Finland there is always a SENTENCED influence to be found, still so here, but a more rebellious Metal approach are offered here. Great album! A strange is the cover which looks far too high-tech for this sort of album. (4)

WIZARD – "Head Of The Deceiver" CD (LMP)
The German WIZARD this time, this is their fourth album already and their quest for true Metal continues! It is nothing original about this band but I find WIZARD to be much more 'real' than many others. Total fucking Metal to the bone! Like old RUNNING WILD and then some. (3)

ARTHEMESIA – "Devs-Iratvs" CD (NATIVE NORTH RECORDS)
Maybe not the best symphonic/melodic Black Metal band in the world we got here. In my book this is just average Black Metal from Finland. I think some might find value in this. Not so much me, too soft. And even if soft can be good at times it is not interesting enough to keep the attention. Seems like they are busier getting 'cool' band photos than right music. (2)

EVEREVE – "E-Mania" CD (MASSACRE)
MASSACRE is a label that tries so hard but seems to fail miserably with their bands. When they do Black Metal, they chose the worst bands, same with Heavy Metal. All they do seem to be on sub par. So in that way this fucking repulsive Glam Goth band fits right in. They do try to be like THE KOVENANT or something. And even if attempting to clone a band is fucking stupid, the story gets worse as they fail so miserable it is not even funny. (0)

VIRGIN BLACK – "Sombre Romantic" CD (MASSACRE)
ARGHHHHH! The Goth invasion continues, this time from Australia. While I'm extremely fond of what this country has given us in Metal extremity (SAD X, GOSPEL OF THE HORNS, BESTIAL WARLUST, DESTROYER 666 for instance) I can't say the same about this pompous overly dramatic Goth fuck of an useless album. EXTERMINATE!!! (0)

TOTENMOND – "Auf Dem Mond Ein Feuer" CD (MASSACRE)
Do we really need a German band doing a lot of crap covers of German punk bands no one ever heard of? Also in an extremely boring and not very convincing style at all! Well, I didn't think so! (0)

RHAPSODY – "Rain Of A thousand Flames" CD (LMP)
A band that becomes more and more boring to me. This is the fourth release I got by them and it sound exactly the same as before. The same pompous choirs, the same production, even the same songs it sounds like. In their defence can say this is not an official album, just a teaser as we await the next one. Well, after this I ain't expecting much. There is enough posers in power Metal already. Avoid this – buy SKULLVIEW! (0)

MYSTIC CIRCLE – "The Great Beast" CD (MASSACRE)
Well, believe it or not but this is the 2nd Black Metal band MASSACRE 'stole' from LAST EPISODE!!!! Quite an accomplishment I must say! These German clowns are pretty well known and this is actually their fourth album!!! Anyway, MYSTIC CIRCLE have always been a shit band, I seen them live making fools of themselves opening for CANNIBAL CORPSE (so pathetic!) , I heard their preceding shit albums. And when I see they are labelled as Germany's biggest selling extreme Metal band there is apparently something wrong. MYSTIC CIRCLE still sucks, sure the production is better and so on, but as the old saying goes: you can't polish a piece of crap. When all comes to all this is just shit!!! (0)

NIGHT IN GALES – "Necrodynamic" CD (MASSACRE)
Well, at least there is one respectable band on MASSACRE (WIZZARD is on GUTTED RECORDS, a sub label of MASSACRE in case you were wondering). German veterans NIGHT IN GALES have a TOTAL THRASH approach on this disc. I remember they had a more Swedish Death Metal feeling before, so this new approach fits better. Vocals are better mixed with classic Thrash style and some more extreme stuff. A band you might compare them to is RAISE HELL on their 2nd CD. They might have a stupid name but for sure hey are pretty kick ass! THRASH LIVES. (3+)

NECRODEATH - "Black As Pitch" CD (SCARLET)
WOW! What can a poor Metal bastard say? If you thought "Mater Of Evil" was brilliant you just have to experience the imminence power of this bastards of a Metal album! This is their 2nd album after their reunion and just as DESTRUCTION they have proved that old bastards still can Thrash fucking hard! I like how many of the songs are linked together making it sound like a permanent holocaust. The SLAYER influences is still here, especially in the opening track. But certainly a great monster of Metal godliness! Many of the youngsters out there might say the vocals are Black Metalish, but that's bollocks! This is fucking brutal Thrash Metal! I love days like these when good Metal rules!!! HAIL! (5)

NIGHTSHADE - "Wielding The Scythe" CD (SCARLET)
Will it ever end? More Swedish melodic Death/Black (?) Metal. Stealing something from DIMMU BORGIR here and CHILDREN OF BODOM there doesn't make a good concept. Just too happy and boring. (0)

JUDAS ISCARIOT - "Heaven In Flames" CD (RED STREAM)
JUDAS ISCARIOT is a prime example of how certain things will never change. JUDAS ISCARIOT has always performed ugly one-dimensional Black Metal. This is just ugly American Black Metal. This is for the few who still understand primitive viciousness. And I like it! (3+)

BLOODTHORN - "Under The Reign Of Terror" CD (RED STREAM)
I never cared much about the earlier BLOODTHORN albums so I was pretty pleased, not to mention amazed, when I got to hear this one. Something bizarre has happened! BLOODTHORN now performs good music! No, let me re-phrase that: BLOODTHORN performs very good music. Much more brutality can be found in their music now; it has an old school Death Metal feeling. Vicious brutality. There are still keyboard parts here but they certainly are not dominating. Also the female ineffective vocals are gone. (4)

KREATOR - "Violent Revolution" CD (STEAMHAMMER)
Pardon me KREATOR, but I actually given up on you. After a few miserable albums (at least in my book) I wasn't really excited about a new KREATOR album anymore. Not until the word was out concerning this album, some people had mentioned it to be really good and as I got handed a copy by Håkon Grav (SCREAM MAGAZINE) I knew too KREATOR was back! Many might question why KREATOR heed out on the Thrash highway again but.... Who cares? Is it for money? Very doubtful, thrash bands don't sell million of records I think. Anyway - doesn't matter what reason KREATOR have for this - they done a great album. Not as savage as on "Endless Pain" or "Pleasure To Kill" (my personal favorites) but more like a mix of "Extreme Aggression" and "Coma Of Souls" which is perfect too with some later day influences as well So there are a few modern sounding parts but nothing really to worry about. A killer production, and it really does sound very KREATOR like with Mille's great vocals and great Thrash!!!!!! Not so pleased with the coloring of the cover but that's a different story. (4+)

VII ARCANO - "Inner Deathscapes" CD (WARLORD)
Italian Warlords of melodic Death Metal Thrash mayhem prevails here. Pretty cool stuff I must say, they tend to rely a bit on the Swedish AT THE GATES sounds and since most of those Swedish bands are not up to their usual standards we can take some comfort in these Italians. Its pretty funny that a Italian band do this style much better than most Swedish bands these days. Another highlight is the strong, powerful vocals. (4)

MANIPULATED SLAVES - "The Legendary Black Jade" CD (WORLDCHAOS PRODUCTIONS) This could have been a great album but it is that drum sound killing me, it is really annoying. But they are pretty cool in the melodic Death/thrash vein. Very well executed but with annoying drum sound! (?)

DAEONIA - "Crescendo" CD (CANDLELIGHT)
Doesn't the imbecile idiot singing in this band grasp he sound like a 2nd class Goth impersonator? What a wanker, a waste of time band. (0)

EMPEROR - "Prometheus - The Discipline Of Fire & Demise" CD (CANDLELIGHT) I don't know what to say? The story of EMPEROR is over and this is what they offer to us as a swan song. Some of the problem might be just there, as this was written EMPEROR knew they were going to lay this to rest, thus they chose to include parts of all periods of EMPEROR. So some of the problems with this album lay within those realms., its to varied, going in all kinds of weird directions. Its impossible to keep focused, there is no red thread here. For me this is a very difficult album, it s very diverse and intricate. Maybe a bit to sophisticated for me (and for its own good). Another problem for me is that this is no band effort, everything is written and arranged by Ischan, therefor, to me it sounds more like his side projects than EMPEROR. (You know what I think of that, right?) For me it would have been mueh better if the album had been written together as a band instead of being Ischans solo product. I mean, this album could have used a "Curse You All Men" or "Warriors Of Modern Death". Some Samoth violence would have been nice. But for sure a album you have to spend some time with. Anyway, I bid EMPEROR farewell and good luck on further projects, not counting PECATUM of course!! (And I bet the next ZYKLON will be an angry motherfucker!) (I chose not to rate this as respect to - well - whatever!)

SODOM - "M-16" CD (STEAMHAMMER)
The war machine called SODOM is rising again, its been a few years since the last "Code Red" album and a new SODOM album is always anticipated in my book of Metal. We write 2001 in the calendar but nothing changed drastic in the SODOM world. We are dealing with a concept album about the Vietnam war here, not a surprising topic for SODOM to cover. The good thing with SODOM is that they never really changed much the last ten years (there was some obvious changes in the beginning but...) over all SODOM have always produced their ugly branch of Metal. SODOM never broke up, SODOM never released albums sounding much different, granted that some of their albums have not always been classic but it has always been SODOM. "M-16" does not disappoint, this is as vital and fresh as any of their '90ies albums. This is non compromise ugly Thrash Metal! Fuck, I don't need to say anything else, just go and get it sodomaniacs! (5)

WITCHERY - "Symphony For The Devil" CD (NECROPOLIS)
A band like WITCHERY can never change the world, a band like WITCHERY will never go down in history as an important band due to the lack of originality in their music. However, WITCHERY is a good band, skilled musicians and all that. They play fucking Metal the way it is supposed to be. WITCHERY is like a soundtrack to alcoholocaust party where you need some loud Metal, something cranking in the background. For that purpose WITCHERY works well. (3)

IN AETERNUM - "Past And Present Sins" CD (NECROPOLIS)
A comp. CD featuring a lot of stuff, most interesting is the brand new track featuring Schmier of DESTRUCTION of course on guest vocals. Very good stuff, IN ATERNUM in top form delivering their most intricate song ever!!! Very fast and brutal deathlike stuff, its called "Cursed Legions" and is the jewel of this release. Another good thing is the "Demon Possession" from their "7 EP. Besides that we got some cover versions where the VENOM one is ok and KING DIAMOND is not that interesting. The older stuff here is not that good - pretty average so it is good to see that they are in their prime now doing their superior Metal of Death. (At least the new track is superior!) (-)

And this concludes the votes of the Norwegian jury!

SOD
26 D-LU
28 NL-
30 D-HAL
02 D-OFFE
04 D-GLA
09 D-NÜ
11 A-
14 I-RAVENNA • Rock Planet 15 CH-PRATTELN • Z7

CENTURY MEDIA

THE GRAND FINALE!

Well, here is a few more reviews and other information....Got to fill in the blanks. As you might know I decided to quit the record label HEAD NOT FOUND, it was becoming far more annoying than pleasurable so I decided to leave. The label is still alive and being ran by VOICES MEDIA ENTERTAINMENT. So please don't address me any requests concerning HEAD NOT FOUND anymore, see the advert to the right for contact information.

A few more albums...

FLESHCRAWL - "Soulskinner" CD (METAL BLADE)
German veterans of Death Metal strikes back, this might be their best effort so far. They have a pretty Swedish old school sound (recorded in Sweden by the way. The only thing I didn't like much here is the JUDAS PRIEST cover "Metal Gods". FLESHCRAWL might be (Death) Metal gods but this cover I could lived without. But anyway, a storm of a old school Death Metal holocaust! (4)

GRAVE - "Into The Grave"/Tremendous Pain" + demo tracks CD (CENTURY MEDIA) The debut album from GRAVE is one of the essential albums in the Swedish history of Death Metal. No, the world-wide history of Death Metal when I think of it. This is pure art!!!!! And now it has been re-released with a bunch of bonus tracks, it makes this release very fucking worthy! The rawness and sheer brutality of this album has not been captured by many!!!!! Fucking classic! Death Metal perfection! (6)

UNLEASHED - "Where No Life Dwells"/"And The Laughter Has Died..." + demo tracks CD (CENTURY MEDIA) Another re-release of Swedish Death Metal supremacy. UNLEASHED had their roots in NIHILIST (Pre-ENTOMBED) where Johnny (bass in NIHILIST) decided to form his own barbarian Death Metal horde. Its for sure a classic along with the above mention album, not that godly as GRAVE but pretty fucking close. (5)

NOVEMBRE - "Novembrine Waltz" CD (CENTURY MEDIA)
As many might know I'm not usually a fan of this genre but when it is done as surprisingly good as on this album I must give in. NOVEMBRE offers something unique here on their fourth album. At least they have something special that separates them from the usual bunch of wannabes! It can be compared to stuff like OPETH (in their better days), their music is never boring and there is a special aura capturing this album. Also their KATE BUSH cover "Cloudbusting" with Ann Mari Edvardsen must be mentioned! It rules! I personally find this album more interesting than new releases by SOLEFALD and BORKNAGAR on the same label, hopefully they will not be ignored. (4)

THE FUTURE!

Well, to disappoint you I will go on with this crusade. SLAYER 17 will reach you sometime during 2002 (the earlier the better) to feature an extensive KREATOR/SODOM/DESTRUCTION tour report, interviews with KREATOR, WITCHES HAMMER, VULCANO (hopefully!), BLASPHEMY, IRON ANGEL etc., the foundations are being build. Keep in touch! NEVER SURRENDER! FOR THE SAKE OF METAL!!!!!!!

please...

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5 / 7 Points - HAMMER 09/01 HAMMER

LEGACY RockHard Heavy
Metal Heart

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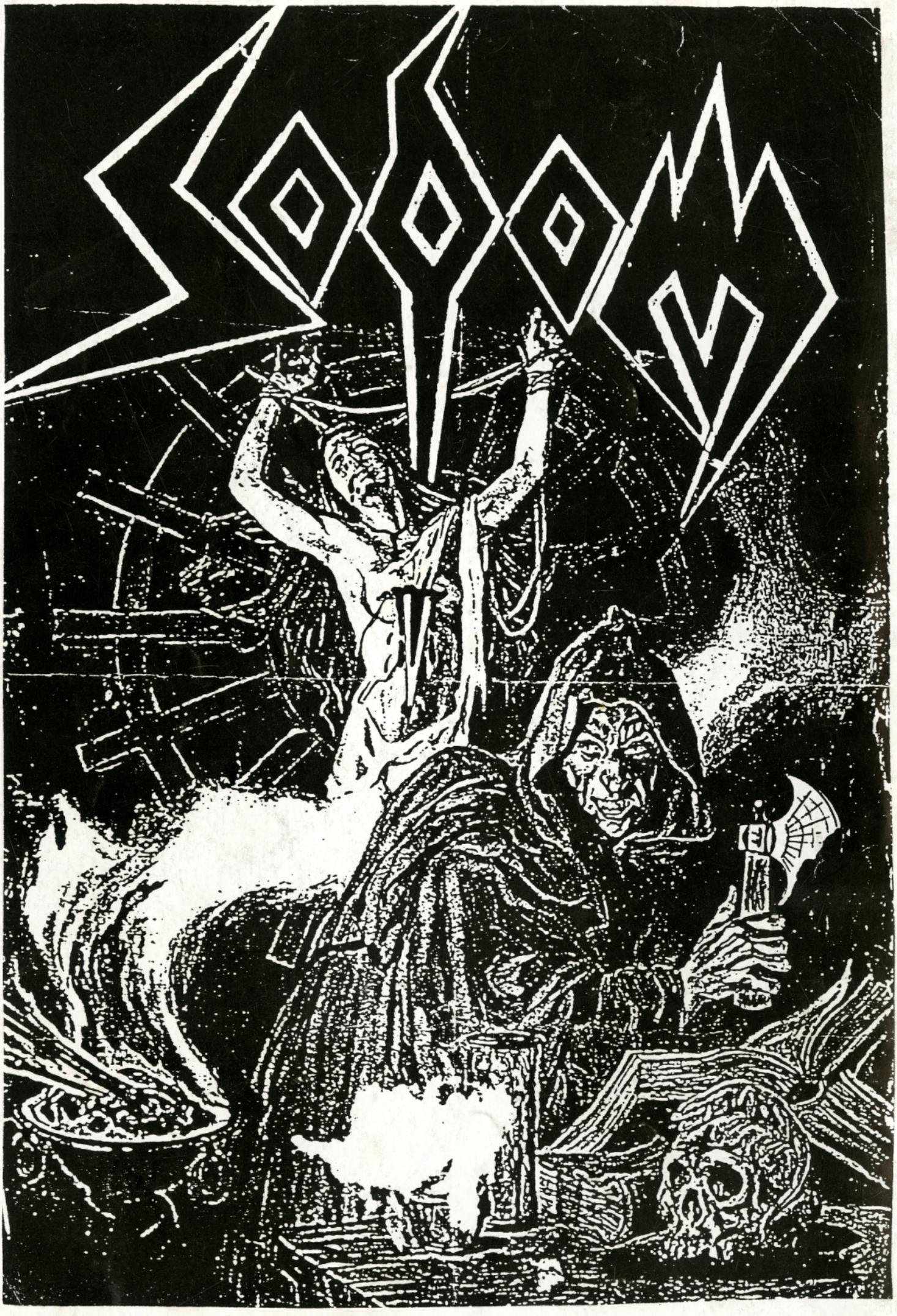
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